

06 February 2022

Today is Waitangi Day so some parts of our service will be taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book

Waitangi Day, the national day of New Zealand, marks the anniversary of the initial signing – on 6 February 1840 – of the Treaty of Waitangi, which is regarded as the founding document of the nation.

The first Waitangi Day was not celebrated until 1934, and it was made a national public holiday in 1974.

HYMN TIS 449 Stand up, and bless the Lord,

Greeting

Grace and Peace to you from God. **God fill you with Peace and joy** The Lord be with you. **The Lord bless you** . This is the day which the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Sentence of the Day

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and was buried, and was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and appeared to many. 1 Corinthians 15.3–4

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Most holy God, in whose presence angels serve in awe, and whose glory fills all heaven and earth: cleanse our unclean lips and transform us by your grace so that your word spoken through us may bring many to your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 6.1-8

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

³ And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ 'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.'

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, 'See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.'

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'

Psalms 138

¹ I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart: even before the gods will I sing your praises.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name: because of your faithfulness and your loving-kindness, for you have made your name and your word supreme over all things.

³ At a time when I called to you, you gave me answer: and put new strength within my soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord: for they have heard the words of your mouth;

⁵ And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord: that the glory of the Lord is great.

⁶ For though the Lord is exalted, he looks upon the lowly: and he comprehends the proud from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of danger, yet will you preserve my life: you will stretch out your hand against the fury of my enemies, and your right hand shall save me.

⁸ The Lord will complete his purpose for me: your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; do not forsake the work of your own hands.

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Luke 5.1-11

¹ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God.

² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.'

⁵ Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.'

¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets?

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are fully laden, and I will give you rest. MATT 11:28

Prayer of Approach

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumb under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Confession

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, we have sinned against you in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. forgive us for our saviour Christ's sake and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen

Through the cross of Christ, God has mercy on you, pardons you and sets you free.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Amen

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn tis 598 Dear Father, Lord of humankind

Offering

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness, and the power, and the glory and the victory and the majesty All that is in the heaven and the earth is yours and of your own we give you.

Thanksgiving

The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. we lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Honour and worship are indeed your due our Lord and our God, through Jesus Christ for you created all things; by your will they were created, and for your glory **they** have their being.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe and language, with the whole church on earth and in heaven, joyfully we give you thanks and say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory and honour to you, God of grace, for you gave your only son Jesus Christ once for all on the cross to be the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

The night before he died, he took bread and when he had given you thanks,

and broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.' which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you, for this is the blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this sacrament of the suffering and death of your son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Redeemer God, rich in mercy infinite in goodness, We were far off until you brought us near and our hands are empty until you fill them. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit feed us with the heavenly food, renew us in your service unite us in Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom.

O the depth and riches of your wisdom, of God how unsearchable are your judgements and untraceable your ways.

From you, and through you, and for you are all things. To you be the glory for ever. Amen

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen

After Communion

Compassionate and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you have fed us and have reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of fasting and prayer, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love.

Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.**

HYMN TIS 687 God gives us a future

Blessing

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



How would you feel if a celebrity turned up at your workplace, commandeered your equipment and afterwards as a thankyou told you how to do your job?

Then imagine that he was actually right, but then he tells you to leave everything and come and work with him.

That would be quite a life changing day, wouldn't it? And what would be flying through you mind as it happened? So many questions,

What do I do with all this stuff, how do I let my colleagues know what is happening? Can I communicate with my family, so they don't worry? What will life be like? How will we live? Where will we live? Can I do it? Will I fail? Would this life still be here if I need to come back?

Fish was one of the staples in first century Palestine. More fish was eaten than any other kind of meat. Fish and bread were basically their daily food and other things like lamb were for special occasions. They ate fish fresh, or processed: salted, dried, or pickled, so an abundant catch would never go to waste and there was a thriving fishing industry on the Sea of Galilee.



The story started with Jesus taking advantage of the local landscape. He was teaching the people by the lake shore, but the crowd kept growing and it was all getting a little crowded. Along the shore of the lake close to Capernaum there is a series of steep inlets, a zigzagging shoreline with each inlet forming a natural amphitheatre. Even today if you get into a boat and push out a little from the short, you can talk in quite a natural voice and anyone on the slopes of the inlet can hear you even better than if you were standing on the shore.

On this occasion we are not told what he was teaching but we know that he always taught about living in God's love and be part of the Kingdom of Heaven, so the fishermen sit there and listen with the rest and afterwards Jesus tells them to go and catch some fish. These men are professional fishermen, and they know that you can't catch fish in the daytime, they have had a poor night,



they just want to clean up and go and get some rest, but this man has something. Peter calls him 'Master' and they obey. As usual when people obey Jesus, the result is an abundant blessing.

This is the first miracle that was not a healing or an exorcism. Jesus did not command the sea or the fish, nor does he instruct the fisherman to do anything out of the ordinary he just knows that there will be fish and gives instructions.

Jesus provided an abundance of fish. The work of the kingdom will be accompanied by signs of God's gracious love. It will inaugurate a time of abundance and blessing.

I am always intrigued by these little details, what happened to the fish? I wonder if this abundance was just what the family needed to get them through losing all these key workers in the family business.



Last week Bishop Mark talked to us about knowing who we are and knowing what the call on our lives is. He said that this is a gift but also something we should seek. And in this reading today we have Simon Peter and the other fisherman discovering their meaning and purpose in life.

By placing this call after the miraculous catch of fish, Luke provides a plausible account of why they left everything to follow Jesus. They had heard his teaching, they had seen his power, they knew he was not just any old itinerant preacher, this man was from God.



At the heart of this scene is Jesus' call to the fisherman to leave their nets and give themselves to the work of the kingdom. The metaphor 'fishers of men' or 'catching people' is striking both because it arises out of the situation and because it is a clever play on words. The fishermen are themselves caught by Jesus and given their new vocation.

The fishermen had done nothing to warrant or merit Jesus' call to them. Jesus did not call the most capable or most qualified. The fishermen were not called because of their qualification, character, or potential. They were there, they were available, God could use them, and they were willing to be used. God's call is unpredictable as it is unmerited.

The call to the fishermen did not come in a holy place, but in the midst of their daily work. This is significant because although God can and does call people in holy places but because it is an example of the work of God's kingdom reaching into all areas of human life.



You have an advantage over me because you are out living your lives in the community, working, joining local groups, and known to others in the community. You can see what God is doing and wants to do in this place and work with him to make it happen.

In this call story Jesus does not use the words 'Follow Me. Instead, he commissions them for service in the Kingdom of God. God does not have a set formula for how he calls us to himself, or a set formula for how we must live our lives. He calls each of us personally and calls each of us to live our unique life as he designed it to be in his kingdom.

This call on their lives requires a reversal of priorities and a reordering of commitments. They left everything and followed him. Jesus would be the one who orders their life from that moment on.

In the Old Testament 'fishing for people' was often used as a metaphor for gathering people for judgement but in the gospels the call to become fishers of men becomes a call to gather men and women into the kingdom. It authorises disciples as representatives of Jesus and agents of the kingdom, and it looks forward to the church's continuous evangelistic mission.



Jesus never wants to leave anyone out. His call to Peter and the others, that they should now help him in catching people, is precisely so that the Good News would go out wider and wider, reaching as many as possible. We can read Luke's gospel today because Jesus kept his promise to Peter, despite initial reluctance and Peter's subsequent failures.



Paul became part of the team, preaching the Good News to those in Corinth and all over the then known world: the Good News that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve [and many others] and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

It was when Jesus appeared to Paul that he received his identity and call and joined the team, the body of Christ, that has continued ever since, in good times and bad but never dying out. As each person through the ages has received their identity and calling, they have taken up the baton and continued the work of bringing Good News to the people whom God loves.

Paul said: by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

A lot of people through the ages could echo what Paul said. I know that I am not the most academically gifted but by the grace of God, I am what I am and his grace to me is not without effect. I do work hard every week to encourage you and equip you so that you can be the people that God intended you to be, yet not I but the grace of God that is in me.

When Jesus calls, he certainly does demand everything, but only because he has already given everything himself, and has plans in store, for us and the world, that we would never have dreamed of.