



KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

10am – Sunday 11 July 2021

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Music to prepare us for worship from “Prelude” César-Franck (1822-90), “Lamento” Felix Guilmant (1837-92)
“O Sacred head sore wounded” Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

Everyone is welcomed to worship. Please place your offering in the offering boxes at the back of the church, if possible before worship commences.

An Invitation to find Jesus via John (the Baptist)

(Based on excerpts from a poem, “The Man who was a Lamp” by John Shea (1992))

Jesus is the Light.

But the Light does not exist without a lamp ... and that lamp is John.

The lamp and the Light meet in the mystery of communion.

Follow John and find Jesus. Find Jesus and find the fullness of John.

But John is not so easy to follow.

He waits for you in neither church nor synagogue nor mosque.

He waits for you in the desert, the place between slavery and promise,
where wild beasts and demons prowl,
where the mind is washed with sand,
and the soul is humbled for repentance.

So, take care.

Do not enter John’s desert lightly, or on your own.

Go with God. Haere me te Atua.

Amine. Haere tatou me te Atua.

We sing

(tune: Cwm Rhondda) CH4 167 - William Williams, translator: Peter Williams

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till my want is o'er.

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till my want is o'er.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:

strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside!
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side!
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.

Poem: Are you the God?

Rosemary Menzies

In this poem from *Spirit in a Strange Land: A Selection of New Zealand Spiritual Verse* (edited by Paul Morris, Harry Ricketts & Michael Grimshaw, 2002), the notion of desert is contextualised for those who would ponder it from an Aotearoa perspective.

Are you the god
who dropped me
in this land
this vast interior
where no fences
no clear boundaries
safety pin my eyes to limitations
or the easy steppes of slow progressions.

There are no telephones
across the tundra, God,
where can I call you up
to check on where I'm going.

I do not even meet a man
who needs my help,
no sick or hungry child
that I can take into my arms
and for a moment be its saviour.

There are no raging fires
that threaten towns and lives
for me to rush and save –
and all the songs I ever knew
have all been sung
and now are gone.

The mountain range heaps high
into the distance,
fault lines extend beyond my gaze,
rivers run away toward a place
and from a place
I will not ever see
and did not come from.

If the sky had just one bird
it would give my eyes a focus.
If a soft wind blew
it would give my breath direction.

But I walk here
in this vast unbounded cage
seeking the god to fight
who dropped me in this land.

We sing

AA 128 - Traditional Maori hymn

1 Tama ngākau mārie, Tama a t'Atua,
tēnei tonu mātou, arohaina mai.

*Son of a peaceful heart, Son of God,
here we are, love us.*

2 Murua rā ngā hara. Wetekina mai
enei here kino, wakararu nei.

*Take away our sins. Undo
these evil ties which bind us.*

3 Takahia ki raro, tau e kino ai;
Kei pā kaha tonu, Ko nga mahi hē.

*Trample under foot whatever is evil
lest the power remain of evil deeds.*

4 Hōmai he aroha, Mōu i mate nei.
Tēnei ra, e Ihu, Tākina e koe.

*Give us love for you who died.
This day, Jesus, you lead us.*

5 Tēnei arahina, A tutuki noa:
Putā i te pōuri, Whiwhi hari nui.

*This is the pathway to the end through
the darkness to receive great joy.*

6 Tama ngākau mārie, Tama a t'Atua,
tēnei tonu mātou, arohaina mai.

*Son of a peaceful heart, Son of God,
here we are, love us.*

First reading: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying. Thanks be to God

Gospel reading: Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring

John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

In this is the Word of God. Praise to Christ the Word

Sermon 'A desert spirituality and a spirituality for the desert'

We sing

CH4 97 - Bernadette Farrell

1 O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down, you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

2 You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life or death, you are.

3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future,
too.

4 Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

5 For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Passing of the peace

Kia tau te rangimarie o te Karaiti ki runga i a koutou.
May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Invitation to the Table

When we come to this table,
we enter the presence of the One who said:
**"I am the bread of life:
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."**
So, come ... you who hunger and thirst for righteousness ...
receive the bread of life.
Amen.

Prayer of Approach

"Song to the Lord God" by James K Baxter (1972) (Amended)

Lord God, you are above and beyond all things,
Your nature is to love.
You put us in the furnace of the world
To learn to love you and love one another.

Father, we sing to you in the furnace
Like Daniel's companions.
The hope and the doom of the love of friends
Is eating up the marrow our bones.

Lord Christ, you are the home in whom we live,
The house in which we share the cup of peace,
The house of your body that was broken on the cross,
The house you have built for us beyond the stars.

Lord, Holy Spirit, beyond, within, above,
Beneath all things, you give us life.
Blaze in our hearts, you who are Love itself,
Till we shine like the noonday sun.

Lord God, we are the little children,
The feeble ones of the world.
Carry us ever in your breast, Lord God,
Give us power by love to be your holy ones.

We sing *Remain seated as we sing this prayer three times.*

CH4 795 - John L Bell

Take, oh, take me as I am;
summon out what I should be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Let us hold one another
and this beautiful, mysterious, fragile, broken world of which we are part
before God in prayer.
In prayerful silence ... we gently bear those who hurt in body, mind or spirit (*Haere mai te wairua tapu, haere mai*, Come, Holy Spirit, come) ... those who inflict hurt (E te Atua, murua te hara, Father, forgive)... and those who are agents of healing and peace (Manaakitia te hunga hohou rongou, Bless the peacemakers).

We sing

**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 forever. Amen**

E te whanau a te Karaiti,
on the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread,
and after giving thanks to God he broke it,
and he gave it to his disciples, saying,
“This is my body, that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the Cup after Supper,
and said, “This is the new covenant, sealed in my life.
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion “Adagio” (*O lamb of God, Grant us peace*) Samuel Barber

All are welcome to partake of Holy Communion. Children are encouraged to get permission from parents or caregivers before participating. Bread and juice will be served at stations around the church. If you would like to be served where you're seated, please indicate by raising a hand.

We sing

(tune: Sine Nomine) AA 45 - Shirley Murray

1 Give thanks for life,
the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through
beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope,
our love, our praise, *Alleluia!*

2 Give thanks for those
who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame,
bursting through the night,
who touched the truth, who
burned for what is right, *Alleluia!*

3 And for our own, our living
and our dead,
thanks for the love by
which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time
or death or dread, *Alleluia!*

4 Give thanks for hope,
that like the wheat, the grain
lying in darkness
does its life retain,
in resurrection
to grow green again, *Alleluia!*

Benediction and threefold Amen

Music for our leaving "*Passacaglia*" Bryan Kelly

Serving today

Officiating Minister - Graham Redding
Organist and Choir Director - Karen Knudson
Reader - Annette Hannah

In relation to your monetary offering, you may:

- *Make regular automatic payments (which are tax deductible) - contact Helen Thew at plannedgiving@knoxchurch.net*
- *Give online to the Church's bank account at 03 0903 0016425 00 - our charity number for tax rebate purposes is #CC52318*