



THE WAIKATO CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST PETER

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato

Dean The Very Rev'd Wendy Scott



Dean's Message for the Sixth Sunday of Easter 17.05.2020

Dear friends

It's been so good to hear from so many of you as you rang to catch up, we were extremely disappointed not to be able to open our cathedral in this level 2 lockdown. However, the church is the people and not the building. As disappointed as we all are the Gospel today reminds us to look at our lives and ask ourselves how would people know that Jesus lives in me? I'm hoping we can all be the church in our communities by writing notes of thank you to our government, to our hospital staff, to the supermarkets, to the council and let them know how grateful we are for all they have done for us while in lockdown. When you sign off let them know that you are writing on behalf of the St Peter's Anglican Cathedral. Let them know that we have been praying for them during lockdown. Perhaps you have been a baker during lockdown could you share some baking with a note to say on behalf of the Cathedral family we're so grateful for what you have done during lockdown.

There are many ways we can be a witness of the Christ who lives in us, so remember, 'If you love me you will follow my commandments.' Love God, love yourselves and love your neighbour.

Look out for an exciting opportunity to pray together with the world between Ascension and Pentecost that people might come to know Jesus. It's called 'Thy Kingdom Come.'

I can't wait to do this journey together.

Arohanui

Dean Wendy

Prayer resource for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus' injunction to show him we love him by keeping his commandments is especially relevant in these difficult times. We give practical expression of our love for others by neighbourly acts of kindness, and equally by complying with constraints on our daily lives and cheerfully accepting disruption and inconvenience, and all for the greater good. Remembering that we are united in the Body of Christ, we pray for others, for ourselves, and for the world; we pray also for our Cathedral community.

‘Truly God has listened; he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love
from me’ *Ps 66:19-20*

In today's Gospel Jesus promises not to abandon the disciples to the difficult task he will set them. The Advocate, the Spirit of truth, which he will send to comfort and help them is his own spirit, his inner life; that Spirit will be with them always. The promise is to us too, to all who are joined to Jesus and the Father by an unbreakable bond of love.

Read the passage through slowly, two or three times, noting carefully anything that stands out for you.

John 14: 15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Think about the words or phrases which particularly struck you.

- What does the continuing presence of Jesus' Spirit mean for you?
- How can we "see" him when the world can't?
- Consider the depth and the implication of Jesus' promise '..you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you'.

Gather your reflections into your own prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Other readings for today are:

- Acts 17:22-31
- Psalm 66:8-20
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21

In conclusion pray the Collect for the sixth Sunday of Easter:

God who speaks in silence; help us wait in quietness. When you seem absent, grant us the faith that knows you are there, bringing to fulfilment all you have begun. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

Prayer Points:

Each Sunday we pray for our world, our country and our own needs.

Please pray: God in your mercy, hear our prayer

I want to commend to you undertaking a daily rhythm of prayer at this time, it can help give you a sense of grounding for your day especially while we're in isolation. There are a number of options on the diocesan web site. If you don't have access, sitting quietly at 9am & 7pm, lighting a candle, reading the scriptures, (the daily readings are provided here for you, praying and giving thanks for the ways God has blessed your day.



Check out our Facebook and website for updated information

**St Peter's Cathedral,
Hamilton**
www.stpeter.org.nz

Morning Prayer for the week commencing 18th May:

Monday 18th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 65 • Numbers 16:1 - 35 • Luke 6:27 - 38 	Tuesday 19th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 126 • Numbers 16:36 - end • Luke 6:39 - end 	Wednesday 20th May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 132 • Numbers 17:1 - 11 • Luke 7:1 - 10
Thursday 21st May: Ascension Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 110; 150 • Isaiah 52:7 - 15 • Hebrews 7:(11 - 25), 26-28 	Friday 22nd May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 81 • Numbers 20:1 - 13 • Luke 7:11 - 17 Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exodus 35:30-26:1 • Galatians 5:13-end 	Saturday 23rd May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 47 • Numbers 21:4 - 9 • Luke 7:18 - 25 Prep for Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29 • 1 Corinthians 2

For our children:

Check out the STRANDZ website: www.strandz.org.nz