



NATIVITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

House Church Liturgy

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

Booklet 4b

stay connected at www.nativity.org.nz



Welcome

FROM THE VICAR

Dear family,

Although it is sad not being able to meet for worship in the church, small group gatherings are not only valid but are a potentially positive way of being the church during this time. Along with the practical considerations of protecting those most at risk and doing that in a unified way, this model allows us to continue to engage in prayer, the scriptures, and faith-sharing, albeit in a different mode. God is present as we continue to gather in this way so let's be open to what he might do among us during this season.

In this service there are questions following the sermon which can be used to guide or support discussion. The service ends with an encouragement to consider as a group what local needs you see that you could help with. While the basic structure of a service is here, don't feel you have to use every part of the service - feel free to supplement parts as you feel comfortable and craft the service to be suitable to those who are attending.

May you be conscious of God's empowering and peace with you during this time. *"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."*

Jn 20:21

INVOCATION

If you wish, open with a song/s.

The leader says

E te whānau / My brothers and sisters,
our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Eternal Spirit,
flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Silence

Let us worship the God of love.
Alleluia. Alleluia.





PSALM OF PRAISE

Share this extract of Psalm 119 (89-96) together - perhaps take turns to read a verse each.

Dear God, your eternal word of love
endures for ever in the universe.

Your trust stands fast from one generation to another.
You have laid the foundations of the earth, and it abides.

In fulfilment of your purpose it continues to this very day,
for all things serve you.

If my delight had not been in your wisdom,
I should have perished in my trouble.

I shall never forget your truths,
for with them you have given me life.

I belong to you: save me;
for I have sought your counsel.

The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me,
but I will meditate on your law.

I see that all things come to an end,
but your commandment is exceeding broad.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

We encourage you to share prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude.

We conclude our prayers with the following:

Christ is the good shepherd
who knows and cares for every one of the sheep
in different folds.

In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile;
in Christ there is no discrimination
of gender, class or race.

In Christ the poor are blessed,
the simple receive truth hidden from the wise.

Alleluia!

**God of justice and compassion,
you give us a work to do
and a baptism of suffering and resurrection.
From you comes power to give to others
the care we have ourselves received
so that we, and all who love your world,
may live in harmony and trust.**





THE CONFESSION

The leader says

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.

I will confess my sins to the Lord,
I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

We keep silence. Alternatively, if you feel comfortable share any struggles you are facing.

God forgives and heals us.

**We need your healing, merciful God:
give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us;
some escape us,
some we cannot face.**

**Forgive us;
set us free to hear your word to us;
set us free to serve you.**

The leader says

Hear the word of God to all.
God shows love for us
in that while we were yet sinners
Christ died for us.

Amen.

THE READINGS

We encourage you to use the Gospel reading from the Lectionary for today. Feel free to add in other readings as you wish.

An online version of the Lectionary can be found at www.anglican.org.nz/Media/Files/2022-Lectionary

You may wish to take turns reading portions of the Scripture with your group.

TEACHING AND REFLECTION

Watch this week's sermon video and answer either the following questions or the questions presented by the preacher:

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about people?
- If this is really God's word, what changes would I have to make in my life?
- Who am I going to tell?



A vertical strip of decorative succulent plants is positioned along the left margin of the page. It includes a small green plant at the top, a larger rosette-shaped plant in the middle, and another rosette-shaped plant at the bottom, all in dark pots.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The leader prays

Lord have mercy.

E te Ariki kia aroha mai.

Kyrie eleison.

Christ have mercy.

E te Karaiti kia aroha mai.

Christe eleison.

Lord have mercy.

E te Ariki kia aroha mai.

Kyrie eleison.

We encourage you to enter a time of prayer for our world, our communities and for each other, concluding with the prayer below or on the next page.

1.

O God of many names,
lover of all peoples;
we pray for peace
in our hearts and homes,
in our nations and our world;
the peace of your will,
the peace of our need.

**Dear Christ, our friend and our guide,
pioneer through the shadow of death,
passing through darkness to make it light,
be our companion that we may fear no evil,
and bring us to life and to glory.**

O God of peace and justice, of holiness and love;
knit us together in mind and flesh, in feeling and in spirit,
and make us one, ready for that great day;
the fulfilment of all our hopes, and the glory of Jesus Christ.

Keep us in the spirit of joy and simplicity and mercy.

**Bless us and those you have entrusted to us,
in and through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

2.

Let us be at peace within ourselves.

Silence

Let us accept that we are profoundly loved
and need never be afraid.

Silence

Let us be aware of the source of being
that is common to us all and to all living creatures.

Silence

Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Silence

Realising that we are all nourished
from the same source of life,
may we so live that others be not deprived
of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

Silence

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be
a cause of suffering to one another.

Silence

With humility let us pray for the establishment
of peace in our hearts and on earth.

Silence

May God kindle in us
the fire of love
to bring us alive
and give warmth to the world.

**Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth;
lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust;
lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.**

**Let peace fill our heart,
our world, our universe.**





THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ teaches us we 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.**

THE BLESSING

The leader shares a common blessing

May the Creator
bless us and keep us;
may the beloved companion face us
and have mercy upon us;
may the eternal Spirit's countenance
be turned to us and give us peace;
may the Three in One bless us.

The service concludes

The divine Spirit dwells in us.
Kia noho te Wairua o te Runga Rawa ki a tātou.

Thanks be to God.

Whakamoemititia a Ihowā.

LOOKING OUTWARDS

As you conclude your time together, we encourage you to discuss together any local needs you have identified in your group or wider neighbourhood, and what your response to those might be.



