

St Columba's Church Havelock North



19 January 2020

Epiphany 2

Welcome to St Columba's

Rev Wayne Toleafoa is leading the service this morning.
Minister's Elder is Janet Browne
Duty Manager is Janice Hopkinson
Organist is Jean Jarvis

Visitors are invited to sign the Visitors Book in the Foyer.

Epiphany means, a 'manifestation' or a 'realisation'. For several weeks after Christmas we reflect on the many manifestations of Christ to all peoples. Colour: 'Green' for growth.

WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

INTROIT:

Please stand as the Holy Bible is carried into the church.

'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty' WOV 65
Tune (ii) Tersanctus

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING AND WELCOME

NOTICES:

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

There is no children's programme in January but there are activity sheets in the corner at the back of the church as well as 'quiet toys'.

THEME: A time for doubt

*The congregation is invited to say together words printed in **bold type**.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Based on Psalm 40:1-11)

Patiently I have waited for the Lord
**and the Lord turned to me and heard my cry, lifted me up from my despair,
my messy situation, set me on firm ground, and steadied my footsteps.**

The Lord put a new song on my lips,
a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see this and wonder,
and they will trust in the Lord.

Those who have made the Lord their trust are satisfied;

those who have not turned to the arrogant, or those making false gods.

Many are the wonders that you have done, O Lord,

and your plans for us – no one else could have arranged them.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God of grace and transformation, in Christ you promised to be with us always until the end of time.

In your good time, transform our lives by your grace, that we may be fashioned and shaped in the image of Christ in his love.

As we come to worship today, draw us nearer to you, and lead us by your Holy Spirit, to that place where your will is done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Through Christ, our Lord we pray.

Amen.

WE SING: 'Every day I will offer you' AA36

© Shirley Erena Murray Used with permission CCLI 80177

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR DOUBTERS:

Lord, we've heard it all before: 'How can you believe in scriptures written so long ago?' 'The church does more harm than good'. 'If God exists, why doesn't God do something about the 15,000 children who will die today?' 'Why doesn't God listen when we pray over the bushfires in Australia? Or the measles epidemic in Samoa?' 'You are foolish to believe that God exists? And more foolish to believe that God really cares?'

Holding God, we confess that our doubts have a stubborn power, and yet the flame of faith persists in us.

We confess, that the church has a lot to answer for. It has often done more harm than good.

We confess, that we can see the arguments of the atheists, just as Job saw them, along with the Psalmist, and the writers of Habakkuk, Ecclesiastes and Lamentations.

We confess, that we are the brothers and sisters of Thomas. Outsiders, on the inside of your inner circle.

We confess, with Martin Luther, and Mother Teresa, that we have lived through times of doubt and darkness.

We confess, that our faith also has a stubborn power, despite the prayers that have not been answered, despite the disasters that have not been miraculously averted. Despite the convincing arguments, you give us just enough for our faith to persist. Thank you, Lord, that our faith is a gift, and not an achievement.

In all our doubting, hear our prayers.

In the name of the One who cried from the cross, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Jesus Christ is the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His grace will strengthen us to the end so that we may be blameless on the day of his glory. Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

Amen! Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us pass on the peace of Christ to one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Spirit of the living God move in our minds and hearts as we listen to the wisdom in the Scriptures. Help us understand how your Word calls us to live today and tomorrow, as we seek to follow Christ, your living Word. **Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS: *Reader: Sam Browne*

First reading: Isaiah 49: 1-7 (page 592)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 (page 926)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

WE SING: 'Give thanks for life CH4 736

Tune Sine Nomine

© Shirley Murray Used with permission CCLI 80177

BIBLE READING: *Reader: Rev Wayne Toleafoa*

John 1: 29-42 (page 862)

This is the gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

SERMON: A time for doubt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

WE SING: 'Let justice roll down like a river'

© Colin Gibson Used with permission CCLI 80177

OFFERING INVITATION:

Thankful for the good gifts God gives us in Christ and in creation, let us present the fruit of our living – gifts and offerings for the work of God in the church and in the world.

Organ music: *Cantabile – Enrico Pasini*

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES: (2 Timothy 1)

Loving God, you are the fount of all blessings, you pour upon us the abundance of your grace. Bless us and these gifts, that they may be a source of blessing to others, in the name Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *Led by Janet Browne*

To the words:

'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world',

the congregation is invited to respond:

'Have mercy on us '.

Our Lord's Prayer:

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

WE SING: 'Our life has its seasons' AA 113

© Colin Gibson and Shirley Murray Used with permission CCLI 80177

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

BLESSING:

Go now and celebrate God's justice.
Take the Lord's teachings to heart and commit yourselves to pleasing God.
Boldly declare God's truth and care and let others know that you have found the Messiah.

And may God's maternal love surround you;
may Christ Jesus move you to trust in the Lord;
and may the Holy Spirit enrich you with all spiritual gifts and strengthen you to the end.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

We go in the name of Christ.

SUNG THREE-FOLD 'AMEN'

EXIT OF THE HOLY BIBLE: *Please stand as the Bible is carried from the church.*

Acknowledgements:

- Philip Yancey, Article – 'A Time For Doubt' – 12 December 2020 – in Philip Yancey - Own Blog.
- Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources (2020) - Nathan Nettleton.

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2020

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday service each Sunday at 10.00am

No Children's programme, but activity sheets available in the back of the church.

MAINTENANCE: If you notice something that needs attention in and around the church, please send an email to Louis Pienaar or ring David Schnell or leave a message in the office.

GOAL SETTING AFTER VISIONING DAY: A meeting to work out how to implement goals set up on the visioning day, will take place on Tuesday 22 January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Millar Room. Elders and Managers have nominated representatives and anyone else interested is welcome to attend.

Many of you will remember our lovely American friends Ken and Joan Smith. They are planning another trip to New Zealand for a holiday in March this year and have asked if we know of anyone who would like them to house sit while they are in Havelock North. We don't have definite dates yet, but if you are interested in having house sitters in March - April, please contact Ailsa or Wayne Rewcastle.

ROSTER: Sunday 26 January 2020

Minister's Elder: Ian Holford
Elders: Anne Heesterman, Stephen Randal, Nicholas Amponsah
Door duty: Graeme Mueller, Colleen Parker, John Heesterman, Barbara Randal
Organist: Nolan Martin
Sound: Arthur Peake
Bible reading: Anne Keown
Morning tea: Elma Pienaar, Louis Pienaar, Juliet Amponsah, Nicholas Amponsah
Children: No programme in January
Flower arrangements: No flower roster in January

LECTIONARY READINGS:

 Is 9: 1-4
 1 Cor 1: 10-18

SUNDAY 26 January 2020

 Ps 27: 1, 4-9
 Mt 4: 12-23