



St Columba Window Iona Abbey

PENTECOST 19 SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2023
ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAVELOCK NORTH
PET BLESSING SERVICE

Minister: Rev Wayne Toleafoa

Organist: Jean Jarvis

Minister's Elder: Jim Watt

Elders/ Volunteers: Ian Holford, Anne Keown

Managers/Volunteers: Phil Carter, David McDonald, Janice Hopkinson, David Williams

Sound: Derrick Amedor

Power Point: Susan Utama

Bible reading: Anne Fortune

Morning tea: Margaret Loughnan, Jan Peake, Arthur Peake

Children's program: Elma Pienaar

Flower arrangements: Judi Schnell

Please stand if you are able, as the Bible is processed into the Church.

GATHERING SONG: 'All Creatures Of Our God And King' CH 147 vss 1, 4 & 7

1 All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Bright brother sun with golden beam,
clear sister moon with softer gleam:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds God's blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

7 Let all things their Creator bless
and worship God in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *(Duty Elder Jim Watt)*

We light the Christ candle to acknowledge Christ as the Light of the World.

WELCOME, NEWS AND NOTICES *(Duty Elder Jim Watt)*

*You are encouraged to respond in the sections marked in **bold**.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

We assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

Gracious God, we join in celebration with you and all creation.

We ask for your blessings, your peace, on the creatures present here that we love and on all the creatures in the wild.

In the name of God, who creates all life, redeems all life and renews all life, we give thanks.

OPENING PRAYER *Led by Olive Duggan*

Blessed are you God, maker of all living creatures. You call forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call them his brothers and sisters. You inspire us to care for all creation. **Amen.**

BLESSING PRAYER AND BLESSING OF PETS *Rev Wayne*

Loving God, we ask you to bless all our animals. By the power of your love, enable us to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, our God, in all your creatures. **Amen**

Turn to your pet and bless them with this blessing:

(Pet's name), thank you for giving me your friendship. When I've been down and when I've been up, you've been there for me. May the blessing of our Creator be upon you, bonding you to your human family. Together let us praise our creator. Amen.

THE MOST POPULAR ANIMAL IN THE BIBLE *Rev Wayne*

WE SING: 'If I were a butterfly' *Words and Music by Brian M. Howard*

1 If I were a butterfly
I'd thank you Lord, for giving me wings.
If I were a robin in a tree
I'd thank you Lord, that I could sing.
If I were a fish in the sea
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee
But I just thank you, Father, for making me me.

Refrain

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child,
And I just thank you Father for making me me.*

2 If I were an elephant
I'd thank you Lord, by raising my trunk.
If I were a kangaroo
You know I'd hop right up to you.
If I were an octopus
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks
But I just thank you, Father, for making me me.

Refrain

3 If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm.
If I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you Lord for my great smile
If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear,
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy wuzzy hair.
But I just thank you, Father, for making me me.

Refrain

CHILDRENS ADDRESS: *Ruth Harrison – St John's, Mahora*

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Reader: Warren Fortune*

Genesis 6: 17-22

17 For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.

18 But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

19 And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive.

21 Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them."

22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Isaiah 11: 6-9

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A REFLECTION: Rev Wayne Toleafoa

‘The fact is that no other species has ever had such a wholesale control over everything on Earth, living or dead, as we now have . That lays upon us, whether we like it or not, an awesome responsibility . In our hands lies not only our future, but that of all other living creatures with whom we share the Earth.’ *Sir David Attenborough.*

WE SING: ‘All things bright and beautiful’ CH 137

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden
he made them everyone.

4 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty
who has made all things well!

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER: *Led by Duty Elder Jim Watt*

In your infinite wisdom, Creator God, when you created the Universe, you blessed us with living creatures. We especially thank you for giving us animals that could become our pets and our friends, blessing us with so much joy. Their presence often helps us get through trying times. Thank you for blessing our pets. May our pets continue to give us joy, and love, and friendship.

Just as our pets trust us to care for them, so we trust you to care for us. Remind us of our responsibility for the care of all creation.

We pray for all endangered species of plants and animals. Especially the plants and animals of Aotearoa NZ, our home. Help us to do what we can to be their saviours.

We pray for the human family, especially in places where there is war and conflict, praying for the people of Gaza and Israel, Russian and the Ukraine, the people of South Sudan, Syria, Iran and Myanmar. Grant us, your human family, your peace.

Bless all pets and humans who are sick at this time. And bless all who care for them. Comfort all who grieve the loss of loved one or a beloved pet. Comfort them with your Spirit.

These are the prayers we bring, together with all the unspoken prayers of our hearts in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

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 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.

THE OFFERING

For other ways of donating, see notices.

Music: 'Baby Elephant Walk' by Mancini

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING *Led by Olive Duggan*

Through your love we have these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our thanks for the life we share with all of your creation. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

CHILDREN RETURN WITH THEIR ACTIVITY

WE SING: 'Make me a channel of your peace' CH 528

1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
where there is darkness only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Refrain

3 Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

No Refrain after last verse.

BLESSING

As we celebrate the special bond we have with our pets and with all animals, let us celebrate the Earth and the life that is God's gift to us. In partnership with all creation, let us go out to play our part in caring for all creation.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever.

THREE-FOLD 'AMEN'

SONG: How Much Is That Doggie In The Window

Chorus

How much is that doggie in the window? (Arf arf)

The one with the waggly tail

How much is that doggie in the window? (Arf arf)
I do hope that doggie's for sale

1 I must take a trip to California
And leave my poor sweetheart alone
If he has a dog, he won't be lonesome
And the doggie will have a good home

Chorus

How much is that doggie in the window? (Arf arf)
The one with the waggly tail
How much is that doggie in the window? (Arf arf)
I do hope that doggie's for sale

2 I read in the papers there are robbers (Woof woof)
With flashlights that shine in the dark
My love needs a doggie to protect him
And scare them away with one bark
I don't want a bunny or a kitty
I don't want a parrot that talks
I don't want a bowl of little fishies
He can't take a goldfish for a walk

Chorus

How much is that doggie in the window? (Arf arf)
The one with the waggly tail
How much is that doggie in the window? (Arf arf)
I do hope that doggie's for sale