***The Covenant Service – Mosgiel Methodist Church***

**Sunday 13th February 2022**

**Before we Begin *One does not ask of one who suffers: What is your country and what is your religion? One merely says: You suffer, that is enough for me.***

Louis Pasteur

**CENTRING**  John O’ Donohue *Awaken to the mystery of being here and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence. Have joy and peace in the temple of your senses. Receive encouragement when new frontiers beckon. Respond to the call of your gift and the courage to follow its path. Let the flame of anger free you from all falsity. May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame. May anxiety never linger about you. May your outer dignity mirror an inner dignity of soul. Take time to celebrate the quite miracles that seek no attention. Be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul. May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.*

**WELCOME** Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou God be with you **Ki a koe anō hoki And with you also** Hold hands people of God in love **Bind our hearts together in God’s grace**

**NEWS AND NOTICES**

**CANDLE LIGHTING** We light this candle to remind us of the light of God’s love, The warmth of God’s welcome, And our faith in the ever presence of God, So together we say: **Welcome to our place, Welcome to worship, Welcome in the name of our living GodAmen**

**WORDS FOR BEGINNING** Covenant Service Text, Faith & Order, Methodist Church of New Zealand Let us worship God who has established an everlasting Covenant and calls us through Jesus Christ to be a faithful people. **We are here to make our response to God**

**HYMN WOV 25** All Praise and Thanksgiving Paul Gerhardt tr. M. Barclay

Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living

Now worship their maker with gladness and song;

All glory and honour we come to him bringing:

O praise to the Almighty,

sing praise to our God

Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;

In darkness he held us in his gracious care,

Now into the light we are called from our sleeping:

O praise to the Almighty,

sing praise to our God

Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,

that unto your glory be all that we do;

and where we have faltered, give strength and give healing:

O praise to the Almighty

sing praise to our God

**A MEDITATION ON TODAY’S GOSPEL** Suzanne Guthrie *Compared with Matthew's Beatitudes, Luke offers no frills, qualifications, or spiritual subtleties, no nine-fold ladder of virtue to aspire to climb, no beautiful literary recitation for Sunday School.*

*You can't import your unconscious cynicism into Luke's version. There's no hiding poverty behind poverty of spirit. No meek inheriting the earth within such a vague 'someday' that even slaveholders can sit down to supper day after day without breaking into a sweat of concern. Someday someone will comfort the mourners. The hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be satisfied sometime. The merciful will obtain mercy, isn't that nice? The pure in heart shall see God, bless their little hearts. Let the peacemakers be called sons of God. Fine. Let those persecuted for righteousness sake wallow in the kingdom of heaven. No skin off our teeth. And HA ! No problem reviling, persecuting, and uttering falsely because those chumps can be “comforted” by their great reward in heaven.*

*In Luke's Gospel Jesus pares his mother's ecstatic prayer of hope and change and revolution (Luke 1:46-55) right to the core. But is such a simple reversal enough? Do the oppressed desire to become oppressors?*

*Jesus follows up his Beatitudes and Woes with a discourse about loving enemies (next week's Gospel). After the shock of the woes, we will see how much labor and insight is involved in loving. In the meantime, let's not default into stark extremes of simply reversing good and bad. In Elie Wiesel's novel The Town Beyond the Wall, the character Pedro says, “Deep down … man is not only executioner, not only victim, not only spectator; he is all three at once*

**PRAYER** Let us adore the God of Love:

**you created us O God;**

**you continually preserve and sustain us**

**you love us with an everlasting love,**

**through the light of Christ**

**you have given us the knowledge of your glory,**

**we prasie you, we acknowledge you to be the Lord.**

Let us give thanks for the grace of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

**though you were rich**

**yet for our sake you became poor.**

**You were tempted at all points as we are**

**yet without sin.**

**You went about doing good**

**and preaching the gospel of the kingdom.**

**You were obedient to the point of death**

**even death on the cross;**

**you were dead but are alive forever,**

**you have opened the kingdom of heaven**

**to all who trust in you.**

**You sit at the right hand of God**

**you will come again to be our judge**

**you, O Christ are the king of glory.**

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit:

**you are the giver of life,**

**by you we were born into the family of God**

**and made menders of the body of Christ.**

**Your witness confirms us;**

**your wisdom teaches us;**

**your power enables us.**

**You will do more for us than we can ask or think.**

**All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.**

*Silence*

Let us make our confession to God: Merciful God, in Christ you have shown us the way of life. We confess with shame our slowness to learn, our failure to follow, our reluctance to bear the cross.

**Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

We confess too often we have impoverished the life of the Church by the half-heartedness of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in your service our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

**Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

We confess that too little of your love has reached others through us. Often we have been hasty in our judgements, grudging in forgiveness, slow in reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbour.

**Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

Let each of us in silence make our confession to God.

*Silence*

Make us pure in heart, O God;

**breathe into us a new and faithful spirit.**

If we confess our sins God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore I declare you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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**

**HYMN WOV 520** Take my life and let it be Frances Ridley Havergal(v. 1-4. 6)

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in endless praise,  
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee,  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose,  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Jeremiah 17: 5-10, Luke 6: 17-26

**A REFLECTION**

**HYMN** The Summons John Weir

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?  
  
Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?  
  
Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
  
Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?  
  
Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**THE COVENANT**

Let us claim this covenant for ourselves and take again the yoke of Christ upon us. To take this yoke upon us means that we are willing for Christ to appoint us our place and work, and for Christ alone to be our reward.

**Christ has many services to be done:**

**some are easy, others are difficult,**

**some bring honour, others bring reproach ;**

**some are suited to our natural inclinations**

**and material interests, others are contrary to both;**

**in some we may please C;hrist and please ourselves;**

**in others we cannot please Christ**

**except by denying ourselves.**

**Yet the power to do all these things**

**Is given to us in Christ who strengthens us.**

Loving and holy God, with joy we take upon ourselves the yolk of obedience

and for love of you commit ourselves to seek and do your perfect love.

We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours.**

**Put me to what you will,**

**Rank me with whom you will;**

**put me to doing, put me to suffering**

**let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,**

**exalted for you or brought low for you.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty;**

**let me have all things, let me have nothing;**

**I freely and whole-heartedly yield all things**

**to your pleasure and disposal.**

**And now glorious and blessed God,**

**you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS** The Methodist Worship Book – MCGB

As we have entered this covenant not for ourselves alone, but as God’s servants and witnesses, let us pray for the Church and the world.

Let us pray for your holy catholic Church:

**make us all one, that the world may believe.**

Inspire and leas all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:

**establish justice and peace among all people.**

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble:

**deliver them from their distress.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered your eternal glory:

**bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray in silence for our own needs and for those of others …

Lord our God,

you have helped us by your grace

to make these prayers

and you have promised through Christ our Lord

that when two or three agree in your name

you will grant what they ask.

Answer now your servants’ prayers

according to their needs;

in this world grant that we may truly know you,

and in the world to come

graciously give us eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

**THE LORD’S SUPPER** (MCGB)

The Lord has made and everlasting covenant of peace with his people.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God our Father, fountain of goodness,

creator of all that is,

you have made us in your own image.

You have given us life and reason,

and love for one another,

setting in our hearts a hunger for you.

In darkness you are our light,

In adversity and temptation our strength.

You bear patiently with our folly and sin,

granting us your law to guide us

and your prophets to renew our faith.

In the fullness of time

you came to us in love and mercy

in Jesus Christ your living Word,

full of grace and truth.

He lived among us ,

declaring your forgiveness

and revealing your wisdom

in words of mercy and his word of power.

For us he suffered and died upon the cross,

by death destroying death.

You raised him from the dead

and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you sent your Holy Spirit

To be the light and life of your people,

gathered together in every time and place

to glorify your holy name.

With them and all the company of heaven

we join in the unending hymn of praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, pour out your Spirit

That these gifts of bread and wine

May be for us the body and blood

of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

how on the night in which he was betrayed ,

took bread, gave thanks, broke it,

and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Take this all of you and eat it.

This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way after supper,

He took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it to them saying,

“Drink from it all of you,

This is my blood of the new covenant ,

poured out for you and for many,

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this whenever you drink it,

in remembrance of me.

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

And so Lord, we obey his command

with this bread and cup

by which we recall his death and resurrection,

the source of our life and our salvation.

Grant that we , who share in this holy sacrament,

may be united by your Spirit

and grow into perfect love.

Bring us ,

with those who have done your will in every age,

into the light of your presence

and the joy of your kingdom.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,**

**in the power of the Holy Spirit,**

**we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever Amen**

**THE OFFERTORY** Thom ShurmanWhen we could choose to be selfish, may we share from our abundance;  
when we could choose to be hoarders, let us give away all we have;  
when we could choose to be broken, let us be reconciled with those around us.  
Bless our lives, as well as these gifts, we pray   **Amen**

**BREAKING BREAD**

The things of God for God’s holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy;**

**Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**Glory to God the Father**

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray

**Faithful God,**

**With these holy gifts you have fed**

**and strengthened us**

**in Jesus Christ your Son.**

**Guide us on our way,**

**That with all your faithful people**

**we may come to share the feast**

**of your eternal kingdom;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen**

**A CLOSING REFLECTION** Desmond Tutu *I have a dream, God says. Please help Me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts, when there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, that My children will know that they are members of one family, the human family, God's family, My family.*

**HYMN WOV 453** An upper room did our Lord prepare Frederick Pratt Green

An upper room did our Lord prepare  
for those he loved until the end:  
and his disciples still gather there,  
to celebrate their Risen Friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own,  
to share his bread, his loving cup.  
Whatever burdens may bow us down,  
he by his Cross shall lift us up.

And after Supper he washed their feet,  
for service, too, is sacrament.  
In him our joy shall be made complete  
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace.  
He loves beyond our uttermost:  
in every room in our Father’s house  
he will be there, as Lord and host.

**COMMISSIONING** We now extinguish these candles but let us say together: **We now embody this light and promise To reflect the light of God’s love In all that we say and do Amen**

**BLESSING WORDS**

The blessing of God

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ,

Be upon you and remain with you for ever **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ Amen**

**THE GRACE Kia tau ki a tatou katoa, te atawhai o to tatou Ariki o Ihu Karaiti, Me te aroha o te Atua, me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu. Ake, ake, ake Amine**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen**