

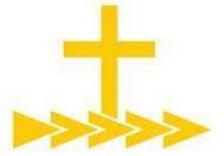
Whangarei Co-operating Churches



Kaurihohore / Kamo &

St John's Golden Church

Sunday 29 May 2022



the girls' brigade
girls' lives transformed
god's world enriched



Our service today is led by Girls' Brigade, St John's Golden Church and Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish members

We welcome Helen McGregor, Northland Area Girls' Brigade representative who will share in the commissioning of Ann Thomas as a Lieutenant in 1st Kamo Girls' Brigade. We thank others who have come to support Girls' Brigade girls who are being welcomed as new members, Girls' Brigade families and those who have come to support Ann

Welcome

Call to Worship and Prayer

How lovely, Lord, how lovely, to worship in this holy place.

How lovely, Lord, how lovely, to walk with you all of our days.

How lovely, Lord, how lovely, to live as your people on earth.

How lovely, Lord, how lovely, to be strengthened and blessed by your grace. Amen

Hymn WOV 25: Sing Praise and Thanksgiving

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= VXaVtBnmKU>

Reading: Matthew 25: 35 – 40

HYMN WOV 558: When I needed a Neighbour where you there?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grnEc0vhtyo>

Prayer for Children

Dear God,
All over the world
super stars and kings
live in mansions and palaces
and boss other people around.

But Jesus, our true King,
comes among us like a friend,
eating with ordinary people,
welcoming little kids like us,
and even washing his disciples' feet.

Help us to make the better choice,
doing the same as Jesus did.
He is our best role-model.

Amen!

Bruce Prewer (adapted)

Children's Song: This Little Light of Mine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCN893hzueQ>

Reflection: Lord, When Did I?

Matthew 25:37-40 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly, I tell you the truth, whatever you did it to one of the least of mine, you did it to me.'

Lord, When Did I? Matthew's original audience wrestled heavily with how to be faithful followers of Jesus. They knew the world was changing, complex, and filled with competing expectations. Much of Matthew's Gospel tries to help people figure out what it means to be a Christian in a complicated world.

In this Parable, Matthew focuses on what it means to be faithful disciples, not in theory, but in ways that attend to the needs of the people in our community or elsewhere. This time a distinction was made between those who helped others and those who turned a blind eye to the needs of others.

Some time we have no idea that we are either caring for Jesus or neglecting Jesus. They asked incredulous questions: “Lord when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?” and “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” The surprising and alarming answer is that whenever they cared or did not care for “the least of these who are in need” they did so to Jesus.

1. Help in simple things

Giving a meal, drink, welcome, looking after the sick, visiting the prisoner, these are the things anyone can do.

2. Unconditional and uncalculating help

Those who helped did not think of merit or anything in return. It is only an outcome of deep love within us. It is natural, instinctive, uncalculating reaction of the Christ-centred loving heart. ‘If we had known it was you, we would gladly have helped; but we thought it was some random common person not worth helping.

What Jesus is telling us today, anything you do to help somebody, such a help is given to Jesus Christ.

Two great people of God, found Christ in the street

- **Martine of Tours**, was a Roman soldier. One winter cold night he was walking on the street, a beggar stopped him and asked for alms. Martine had nothing to offer him, but beggar was shivering with cold, Martine took off his soldier’s jacket and he cut it into two and gave half of it to the beggar. That same night he had a dream he saw angels and Jesus and Jesus was wearing half of a Roman soldier’s jacket. One of the angels asked, ‘My Lord, why are you wearing half jacket?’ Jesus answered softly, “My servant Martine gave it to me.”
- **Francis of Assisi**, he was born into a wealthy family, but he was not happy, felt his life was incomplete. One day he was riding his horse saw a leper, something moved within him he got down from his horse and put his arms around this suffering leper, suddenly, face of a leper changed to the face of Christ.

One key truth about being a disciple is that the responsibilities never end. People are never done being faithful. They are never finished helping the poor and hungry. Discipleship has never been glamorous or easy, in ancient days or today. Faithful Christians seek to care for those in need, and in doing so they care for the continuing body of Christ in the world.

I would like to conclude this reflection with the following prayer of Sant Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

Prayers for Others

Holy Friend, help us to get real!

To get real with our faith and hope and love.

We bring our prayers to you for the hungry and the thirsty; and for those aid agencies, both Christian and secular, who seek to relieve the suffering and implement preventive programmes in the years that are to come.

Holy Friend, help us to get real!

To get real with our faith and hope and love.

We bring our prayers to you for those who are strangers and outsiders; new people in town, new students in school, new employees at our workplace, newcomers to our church. May they find the nurturing power of respect and acceptance.

Holy Friend, help us to get real!

To get real with our faith and hope and love.

We bring our prayers to you for the homeless of the world and those struggling to clothe themselves; boat people, street kids, dispirited native communities, and the deprived children of alcoholics and gambling addicts. May we find the most empowering way to assist them to a better life.

Holy Friend, help us to get real!

To get real with our faith and hope and love.

We bring our prayers to you for all who are sick and suffering, and for the care being given at home or in our hospitals, or in the makeshift medical facilities in situations of warfare, or in extremely poor countries. Help us to share surgical skills and medications across all countries and communities.

Holy Friend, help us to get real!

To get real with our faith and hope and love.

We bring to you our prayers for those in prison. We think of the murderers and the embezzlers, the rapists and the drug pushers, the thieves, liars and cheats; But also those mistakenly convicted and those thousands who are prisoners of conscience. We pray too for the prison officers, social workers, chaplains, and for the work of Amnesty International.

Holy Friend, help us to get real!

To get real with our faith and hope and love.

Holy Friend, without you we can do nothing. With you we can achieve much more than we can ever see or measure. So give us the love to thoughtfully and compassionately play our small part in relieving the sufferings of the world. Through Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Amen!

Bruce Prewer (adapted)

Lord's Prayer

Commissioning of Ann Thomas' as a Lieutenant

Hymn AA 8: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JahFRDrSCs>

Blessing

Amen