



ANGLICAN MOVEMENT

# *House Church Liturgy*

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movement  
DIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

# Welcome



## FROM OUR BISHOPS

Dear family,

Although it is so sad for us not to be able to gather together in prayer and praise in our usual places of worship, we are so thankful that Jesus is our High Priest and that, wherever we are, we can always enter into the sacred and intimate presence of God! Let us make the most of any time in which we must withdraw from the social world, by drawing on our spiritual rhythms and practices and very intentionally coming closer to God.

This time of gathering in our homes is also an opportunity to encourage one another more closely and intimately than our corporate worship sometimes enables. The gift of friendship in Christ is a very, very precious gift. Our prayer for us all during this period, is that Christ will deepen our spiritual friendships with each other, as we support and help each other to hold to faith, hope and love.

Jesus is God's new and living way. Whatever era of challenge the Church finds itself experiencing, over time and space, Christ is always creatively amongst us, enlivening us as his body. May this resource be a grace through which Jesus, in his living presence, stands alongside you and says, 'My peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid' (John 14:27).

+Justin and +Eleanor



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## THE PREPARATION AND READINGS

*If you wish, open with a song/s.*

*The leader says*

Grace and peace to you from God  
**God fill you with truth and joy.**

*We say together:*

**Almighty God,**  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may truly love you  
and worthily praise your holy name:  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



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## 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*

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.**



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## 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/2020-Lectionary](http://www.anglican.org.nz/Media/Files/2020-Lectionary)*

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

## TEACHING AND REFLECTION

*Your local Parish may have provided some resources such as a printed sermon or video content for today. Other options will be added to Movement Online ([www.movementonline.org.nz](http://www.movementonline.org.nz)) in the coming weeks. You can read / play this now, and then enter a short time of discussion based on the following questions:*

- What stood out for you in today's scripture and reflection?
- In the context of our present reality, what is God calling you to do?



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## **PRAYER**

*We encourage you to enter a time of prayer, which can conclude together with:*

God of mercy,  
you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice;  
and have promised to hear the prayers  
of two or three who agree in your name;  
fulfil now, we pray,  
the prayers and longings of your people  
as may be best for us and for your kingdom.  
Grant us in this world to know your truth,  
and in the world to come to see your glory.  
Amen.

## **THE PEACE**

*We encourage you to share the peace with one another, using creative non-contact ways of doing so!*



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## OUR THANKSGIVING

*The leader says*

Let us give glory to God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
**Glory to God in the highest.**

God our Creator, we thank you for the world you have made;  
we thank you for your loving care watching over all creation;  
we thank you for entrusting part of your world to us to tend,  
to care for and to develop.  
**Glory to God in the highest.**

You made us to know you and to be near you,  
our hearts are restless until we come to you.  
To bring us nearer to you when we were still far off,  
you sent your prophets and teachers  
to show us the glory of your steadfast love.  
**Glory to God in the highest.**

The wonder of your redeeming love was fully shown  
in Jesus the Christ, who walked among us as one of us,  
meeting us face to face,  
person to person, God in human form.  
**Glory to God in the highest.**





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## OUR THANKSGIVING CONTINUES

*The leader continues*

Yet we did not value him and sent him to death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
stretching out his arms on the cross  
to embrace the whole human race  
and to bear our sin in himself.  
By his death and resurrection,  
death is destroyed and we are delivered from sin  
to share his risen life.

**Glory to God in the highest.**

You sent your Holy Spirit upon your Church  
so that, in Jesus, we are united to you, Father,  
with all the redeemed.

**Glory to God in the highest.**

We thank you that we can worship you  
with prayer and praise as one with all your people.  
Above all we thank you for the sacrament  
of the body and blood of Christ.

**Glory to God in the highest.**





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## SHARING THE EUCHARIST

*The leader continues*

E te whānau, we are the body of Christ.  
**By one Spirit we were baptised into one body.**

God, creator of time and space,  
may the love and faith which makes  
this bread the body of Christ  
enfold us now.

We thank you for the blood of Christ  
that covers us as we put our trust in Him.

Make us one with  
the whole body of Christ.

May Christ's Holy Spirit  
bring to us in the sacrament  
the strength we need,  
and an abiding trust  
in your gift of eternal life.

**Amen.**

*As we give the bread, we say to each other*

The body of Christ given for you.

Ko te tinana o tō tātou Ariki, i tukua nei mōu.



## 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.

Kua ākona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki,  
ka inoi tātou  
E tō mātou Matua i te rangi  
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.  
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.  
Hōmai ki a mātou āiane  
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.  
Murua ō mātou hara,  
Me mātou hoki e muru nei  
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.  
Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:  
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,  
me te korōria,  
Āke ake ake. Āmine.

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## THE BLESSING

*The leader shares a common blessing*

Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you,  
within you to keep you,  
before you to lead you,  
beside you to guard you,  
and above you to bless you.  
**Amen.**

## 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.*



# Notes for Leaders

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## Using this Liturgy

This liturgy has been developed for you to use in small group gatherings during the Covid-19 outbreak, where larger group gatherings have been restricted. Feel free to use this liturgy in a way that suits your group best, and don't feel you have to use every part of the booklet. The basic framework of the liturgy is to share God's word in Scripture, hear a reflection and talk about its application, share Eucharist, pray, and to look outwards to the needs of our local environment. The idea is that anyone can lead, or take turns sharing in leading. This liturgy is not specific to a Sunday - you could gather on any day of the week.

## Hosting a House Church

We encourage you to keep gathering in prayer and worship together, perhaps with others who live near you (unless otherwise instructed) or just in your family unit. We encourage you to prepare a space together that is peaceful and welcoming, perhaps with a candle, cross, or other point of focus. If you are using a screen to show video content, make sure everyone can see and hear, and you have any web links bookmarked and ready to go.

## Sharing Eucharist

Sharing Eucharist is an important part of who we are as Anglican family. As per recommended practice for churches across the globe at this time, we are only sharing the sacrament in one kind - the bread. Packs of reserved sacrament wafers are available from your parish priest as per their instructions for collection or delivery.

In order to share these safely, we suggest that one person, who has thoroughly cleaned their hands as per best practice, is responsible for opening the packet and placing wafers onto a plate for each individual person to take one by one. There should be no hand to hand contact.

Everyone should wash their hands before and after Eucharist (as per best practice for eating). You might like to have some hand sanitiser ready, if you have some available.



# Notes for Leaders

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## Staying Safe

if you are in a high-risk group, or you are in any way unwell, please do not gather with others outside your household group, and keep good hygiene precautions in place.

If you are hosting a small group, we encourage you to ensure all high-contact surfaces (door handles, taps, bathroom surfaces and toilet, light switches, bench tops etc.) are cleaned before and after the gathering.

If you are gathering with people from outside your household unit (where this is still possible), please ensure that you are asking everyone to remove shoes prior to entering your home, to wash their hands on arrival, and to keep the recommended physical distance of 1 metre apart during your gathering.

## Staying Connected

Your parish will likely have communicated ways to stay in touch. We also strongly encourage you to sign up to the Diocesan communication Movement by Mail ([www.movementonline.org.nz/signup](http://www.movementonline.org.nz/signup)). This is the key way that you will hear about best practice and stories of hope from our wider whānau.

## Living in Hope

As followers of Jesus we are His hands and feet in being a joyful and non-anxious witness to our neighbourhoods. As well as continuing in prayer, we encourage you to join any community care initiatives (e.g. local registers, phone trees) which allow you to make loving connections with those around you. Your parish may be involved in one of these already.

