

# Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist Campbells Bay



Wilderness Sunday  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Welcome

The desert waits, ready for those who come, who come obedient to the Spirit's leading; or who are driven, because they will not come any other way.

The desert always waits, ready to let us know who we are – the place of self-discovery.

And whilst we fear, and rightly, the loneliness and emptiness and harshness, we forget the angels whom we cannot see for our blindness, but who come when God decides that we need their help; when we are ready for what they can give us.

*"Let the wilderness lift up its voice". Isaiah 42:11*

We invite the wilderness to worship with us:

**thickets and rugged terrain,  
deep gorges and mountain ranges.**

We invite the wild landscape to celebrate life:

**to lift their voices to our God  
at the sound of rain on the dust.**

We invite the flora to sing in the sun:

**Grasses and moss windswept bushes and scrub.**

We join with the fauna of the wilderness in praising God:

**Hawks and falcons, rabbits and birds.**

We invite the spirits of the wilderness to join us in praise:

**songs of ancient custodians deep in the rock, spirits of life deep in the sand and the hills.**

We celebrate the song of the wilderness!

**Sing, wilds, sing!**

Be still and feel the presence of God,  
the presence pulsing, pulsing through Earth, be still and feel the pulse of God.)

Be still and hear the Spirit of God,  
the Spirit breathing, breathing through Earth, be still and hear the breath of God.

Be still, behold the glory of God, the glory filling, filling this Earth. be still,  
behold the face of God.

As we take this in our hands we remember and confess:

### **Confession**

**We remember the wilderness God created, the wild places on Earth,  
the worlds of wonder and mystery,  
the spirit of the wilderness.**

**We remember the wild worlds  
and the hiding places of our childhood, places where we played,  
where we felt the mystery  
of remote places, adventures, and wild creatures.**

Jesus Christ, from the wilderness hear our cry:

**We regret that we have become alienated from Earth, and have treated  
this garden**

**as a beast to be tamed,  
as a domain to be dominated,  
and as a place to be ruled for our gain.**

We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted the wild  
places of our garden planet.

**We are sorry.**

**We have polluted deserts with waste. We have torn holes in the ozone  
layer.**

**We have desecrated sacred sites in the mountains. We have destroyed  
the homes of wild creatures. We are sorry. We are sorry.**

**Absolution** Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent,  
forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

**Amen**

### ***Readings for the Third Sunday in Creation***

**Old Testament** Joel 1:8–10,17–20 “The mourning of the wild”

Some may assume that only humans suffer anguish when there is a  
disaster, whether from nature or war. Joel reminds us that at such times  
the ground mourns and the creatures of the wild cry out to God.

**Psalm** Psalm 18:1–19 “The wild forces of creation”

The psalmist remembers how God employed the fierce forces of creation  
to intervene and rescue him.

**Epistle** Romans 8:18–27 “The groaning of creation”

The Gospel message of this text makes it clear that human beings are not  
alone in waiting for liberation. The whole creation is longing for that day as  
a mother about to give birth.

**Gospel** Matthew 3:13 – 4:1 Jesus in the wild of the wilderness” When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit that fills all of Earth now fills Christ in a special way. In response, Jesus retires to the wilderness to connect with creation. In Mark’s version, the wild animals and the angels join him. Let us declare our faith in God.

### Reflection

### Declaration of faith

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### Prayers

#### **E to matou Matua – The Lord’s Prayer in Te Reo Māori**

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.

Peace

### **Blessing**

**May the God who is above all and through all and in all fill you with the knowledge of God’s presence in Earth, the pulsing of Christ through Earth,  
and the dream of the Spirit**

**that all will be reconciled, renewed, and restored, through Christ our wounded healer.**

