

Church of Te Heparā Pai

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Sunday 02 June 2013

Te Rātapu o Te Pouhere / Constitution Sunday

Unity in Diversity



TE RĀRANGI O TE RĀ

Kahore he Hurai, kahore he Kariki, kahore he pononga, kahore he rangatira, kahore he tane, wahine ranei; he tangata, kotahi tonu hoki koutou katoa i roto i a Karaiti Ihu.

INOI O TE RĀ – Kia inoi tātou

E Te Kai-raranga, ko koe te kai-whatu, ko mātou te muka i mahia ai e koe a Te Pouhere, te whāriki whakakotahi i ō mātau tikanga i Aotearoa puta noa i Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. Nā tō ringa matau i whiriwhiri, e kitea ai te paruhi o te hoahoa, me te taura i roto i ngā rerekētanga o tēnā o tēnā o mātau. Mā tōna kaha me te whakaaro kotahi te kaupapa e mañaaki, tae rawa ki tōna puāwaitanga. Whakamaharatia mātau, nāu mātau i raranga, ā, mā tā mātau noho kotahi hei whāriki, e kitea ai tāu hoahoa i roto i te kotahitanga e kīa nei ko Te Pouhere. **Amine.**

SENTENCE OF THE DAY

There is no Jew or Greek. There is no slave or free person. There is no male or female. Because you belong to Christ Jesus, you are all one.

COLLECT OF THE DAY – Let us pray:

Master weaver, you are the creator and we are the flax with which you have plaited Te Pouhere, a whāriki which unites our tikanga in Aotearoa and across Te Moananui a Kiwa. Your hand has woven us so that each tikanga is revealed in the perfection of its design, its pattern in the texture of our differences, and its strength in the unity of its purpose to shelter and support our promise. Remind us you have woven us so that no strand by itself reveals your design but together we are the whāriki, Te Pouhere. **Amen.**



Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Te Hahi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tireni, ki Nga Moutere o Te Moana Nui a Kiwa

Unity in Diversity



Today the Hāhi Mihinare is observing Te Pouhere (Constitution) Sunday. The Constitution (Te Pouhere) of the Anglican church here, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, is the set of rules on which the church is governed. The 1992 Constitution, which we think about today, revised the constitution agreed on in 1857 by a general conference held in Auckland. It was back then that the Anglican church here became a self-ruling province. **The 1992 Constitution of this Church provides for three partners to order their church affairs within their own**

cultural context. General Synod set down Te Pouhere (Constitution) Sunday in the Lectionary and the Church Calendar for the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is today.

The Three Partners to the Constitution

The partners to the Constitution are the three Tikanga which make up our Church: Tikanga Māori, Tikanga Pakeha, and Tikanga Pasifika. The word tikanga (with a small 't') means 'custom, way, style, or cultural model,' but when it is used in a specifically Anglican context it is written with a capital 'T' and means one of the *three strands* that together make up the Anglican Church in this part of the world. It is like a woven piece with its distinctive individual threads. Here, Tikanga Pakeha is made up of seven Dioceses, and Tikanga Māori is made up of five Hui Amorangi (regional bishoprics, the boundaries of which differ from those of the dioceses). Tikanga Pasifika includes Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands, and is known as the Diocese of Polynesia. **So today we celebrate our life as a three-Tikanga Church, with each Tikanga operating independently of the other two but also closely related to them.**

One Church Made Up of Three Partners

The Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia is *one church*, in which each of the three Tikanga is an equal partner in the decision-making process of the General Synod, and where each can exercise mission and ministry to God's people within the culture of each partner. There are some things we do together (General Synod and a number of cross-Tikanga bodies) and many things we do separately. **It is in the sense that there is church unity among diverse racial groups of people who order their church affairs within their own cultural context that we have unity in diversity, the kaupapa or theme today for our service of the worship of God.**

Many Anglicans live out their church life within only their own Tikanga. Which Tikanga you are part of is not based on race. There are Māori working within Tikanga Pakeha, and Pakeha working within Tikanga Māori, and similarly with Tikanga Pasifika. It is about where you find your home.

In this Province we have three 'co-presiding bishops' who are addressed as 'archbishop:' Brown Turei for Tikanga Māori, Philip Richardson for 'the New Zealand dioceses' (as Tikanga Pakeha is sometimes referred to) and Winston Halapua in Polynesia. They work very closely together in a shared primacy that ensures that each of the Tikanga is represented, and have a real leadership role in this Province.

How to Observe Te Pouhere Sunday

An appropriate way to observe Te Pouhere (Constitution) Sunday begins with a kauhau or lesson on what the 1992 Constitution of our Church provides, and what that means for believers today who are members of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.





The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:10-20

A reading from Isaiah chapter 42 beginning at verse 10.

A Song of Praise to the Lord

¹⁰ Sing a new song to the Lord. Sing praise to him from one end of the earth to the other. Sing, you who sail out on the ocean. Sing, all of you creatures in it. Sing, you islands. Sing, all of you who live there. ¹¹ Let the desert and its towns raise their voices. Let those who live in the settlements of Kedar be glad. Let the people of Sela sing with joy. Let them shout from the tops of the mountains. ¹² Let them give glory to the Lord. Let them praise him in the islands. ¹³ The Lord will march out like a mighty warrior. He will stir up his anger like a soldier getting ready to fight. He will shout the battle cry. And he will win the battle over his enemies. ¹⁴ The Lord says, "For a long time I have kept silent. I have been calm and quiet. But now, like a woman having a baby, I cry out. I am struggling to breathe. ¹⁵ I will completely destroy the mountains and hills. I will dry up everything that grows there. I will turn rivers into dry land. I will dry up the pools. ¹⁶ Israel is blind. So I will lead them along paths they had not known before. I will guide them on roads they are not familiar with. I will turn the darkness into light as they travel. I will make the rough places smooth. Those are the things I will do. I will not desert my people. ¹⁷ Some people trust in statues of gods. They say to them, 'You are our gods.' But they will be dishonoured. They will be put to shame.

Israel Can't See or Hear

¹⁸ "Israel, listen to me! You can hear, but you do not understand. Look to me! You can see, but you do not know what you are seeing. ¹⁹ The people of Israel serve me. But who is more blind than they are? Who is more deaf than the messengers I send? Who is more blind than those who have committed themselves to be faithful to me? Who is more blind than my servants? ²⁰ Israel, you have seen many things. But you have not paid any attention to me. Your ears are open. But you do not hear anything I say."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:34



Four Premises for Unity of the Church

- That believers may be joined together as "one fold and one shepherd" with "unity of purpose and knowledge through Jesus" (John 17:21a).
- That believers abide in the one Shepherd and as one fold to bear unified witness in unity to the identity of Jesus as the Sent One (17:21b).
- That they may be kept in solidarity as one fold, transformed into His likeness to reflect His glory (17:22).
- That they may be made complete and full as one, collectively abiding in Christ and Him dwelling within every believer (17:23).



The Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-19

A reading from 2 Corinthians chapter 5 beginning at verse 14.

¹⁴ Christ's love controls us. We are sure that one person died for everyone. And so everyone died.

¹⁵ Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. He died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we don't look at anyone the way the world does. At one time we looked at Christ in that way. But we don't anymore.

¹⁷ Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! ¹⁸ It is all from God. He brought us back to himself through Christ's death on the cross. And he has given us the task of bringing others back to him through Christ.

¹⁹ God was bringing the world back to himself through Christ. He did not hold people's sins against them. God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to him.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.***



The Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 15 beginning at verse 9.

Praise and Glory to God.

⁹ "Just as the Father has loved me, I have loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. In the same way, I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy will be in you. I also want your joy to be complete.

¹² "Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ "I do not call you servants anymore. Servants do not know their master's business. Instead, I have called you friends. I have told you everything I learned from my Father.

¹⁶ "You did not choose me. Instead, I chose you. I appointed you to go and bear fruit. It is fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name.

¹⁷ "Here is my command. Love each other.

*This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ, the Word.***

