



Season of Creation week 4

22nd September 2024

Notes from Yukiko's Desk

Dear AGAC whanau

Hope you have survived the unseasonal polar weather in the last several days.



Did you know that 21st of September is **World Gratitude Day**? It was established by the United Nations in 1977 to remind us to be mindful, and to show compassion to ourselves and others. It is a day the whole world can pause to appreciate all they are thankful for. We know there is always something to be thankful, but I wonder how can we cultivate gratitude in our lives?

As reflecting on the theme, the words of Carl Frederick Buechner (one of my favourite theologians) came to my mind. He writes;

"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.

(Frederick Buechner: *Listen to Your Life: Daily Meditations* (1992))

In other words, we should pay attention to our lives daily. If I remember, I try to ask myself before going to sleep; 'Has any event today surprised or delighted me?' Then, I try to focus my attention on what I enjoyed, relish it, and suck all the enjoyment out of it that I can. It is easy to say, but is also easy to forget. As we celebrate the World Gratitude Day, I am inviting you to join me to cultivate to ***"listen to your life."*** When we do, I guarantee, we will begin to understand the wonder that is already in our lives.

Happy World Gratitude Day!

Thanking God for grace upon grace,

Yukiko



News & upcoming events



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

How are you getting on engaging with the Season of Creation. We are doing a few special things and a challenge for this season:

Waste Challenge

Our goal is that by the end of the Season of Creation we will have made significant progress with our waste at the church. This includes installing proper recycling bins. If you are happy to contribute some money for purchasing the bin, please let In Cheol know.



Sharing Korero

Do you have some **photos, stories, or discoveries on the theme of creation?** Can you please share them with us? The photos in the coversheet in this newsletter are some of the photos Yukiko has taken in her garden 😊.

Alison's Korero



The photo on the right is Allison's lily in full bloom. See the photo on the left. This is the same plant starting all over again this year. It dies back completely over the winter!



This Sunday: 22nd Sep: A guest preacher at Holy Cross

Dr Nicola Hoggard Creegan, New Zealand Christians in Science Director, will be with us. We look forward to hearing her reflection.

29th Sep: The feast of St Francis including Blessing of the animals @Holy Cross (The feast of St. Michael's @ St. Michael's)

Thank you for those who have sent a photo of your animals already. If you have not, please send a **photo** and the **name** of your animal (whether living or dead)- which we will use during the service. Your animal is welcome to join if he/she is used to stay inside.

4th Oct (Wed): A half Day Retreat: Venue: TBA (10 am to 12 pm)

To conclude a Season of Creation, we would like to have a half-day retreat on the theme of creation somewhere nearby. Join us for a quiet half day of reflection, prayer, silence, and prayer.

Morning Tea will be provided. If you know any good place for gathering, let Yukiko know.

Settler's Morning Tea:

We had a wonderful gathering last Wednesday from both Holy Cross and St. Michael's.

Next meeting: **16 October** Wednesday at **10 am** at Settler's Lounge.



The topic of this week is "Building a family culture."

Building a great family culture can be both an exciting and daunting part of parenthood. Considering our own experiences of family can bring up a variety of feelings and memories. We had a great discussion. Can you think of your own experiences? I would be very interested in hearing your story.

Spring Ministry Training Hub

Topics:

- 1) **Mental Health workshop** or
- 2) **Planning ahead for Children & Families Ministry in 2025**

Date: Sunday 20 October 2024

Time: 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Venue: St Chad's Church, 38 St Johns Rd, Auckland

Cost: \$10 pp (includes lunch)

Yukiko is planning to go. If you are interested, we can register you, so let us know. We can go together.

Anglicans Hungry For Change

The Auckland Anglican Diocese is uniting with Auckland City Mission to support the Mission's vision of a future where everyone has sufficient food for themselves and their families. This vision is currently at risk due to an end to government funding amongst a food crisis. People need immediate food relief. Please watch the following video of the Bishop Ross. [video to share](#) .Let's prayerfully think about how we can support as a faith community.

We pray for:

- Sustainability of our Planet.
- Auckland Diocesan Council, Bishop Ross, and the Episcopal team as they reflect on how to implement the motions and bill from Synod this month.
- The Auckland City Mission and other providers of emergency food as they face massive funding shortfalls in trying to meet the needs of Aucklanders who rely on their food parcels.

This Week's Question

What was **not** present in the new heaven and new earth?

A. Any mountains B. The lake of fire C. The sea D. The kingdoms of this world

Readings

	<u>22 September</u>	<u>29 September</u>
1 st Reading:	Isaiah 40:21-31	Genesis 1:24-31
Psalm	Psalm 24	Psalm 104:10-18
2 nd Reading:	Rev 21:1-7	Gal 6:14-18
Gospel:	Luke 7:1-10	Matthew 11: 25-30

This week's summary:

- 1st Ch. 40 of Isaiah announces the end of Israel's exile.
Reading: As the people celebrate this good news, Isaiah reminds them in verses 21-31 that God, the Creator of the universe, is the source of their strength, their only lasting comfort, their true home.
- 2nd It is this promise of the new heaven and the new
Reading: earth. God makes his dwelling place with man, and the world is made right in all facets, just as it was intended to be.
- Gospel: It is the story of a Gentile centurion with humble faith. The centurion's servant is dying, so he sends messengers to only ask for healing, assuming Jesus doesn't need to be physically present.

Sentence

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. (*Isaiah 40: 28*)

Collect of the Day

**Source of all life,
we give thanks to you for your wondrous creation
made manifest in the environment that surrounds us;
strengthen us in the mission of stewardship
and care towards nature, the work of your hands,
encouraging us to preserve life in all its precious forms.
All this we ask in Jesus' name Amen.**

This Week's Service Songs

Opening:	Morning has broken
Gospel:	All Things Bright and Beautiful
Offertory:	All Creatures of Our God and King
Recession:	How great thou art

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>22nd September</u>	<u>29th September</u>
Sacristan	Alison Coughlan	Val Deas
Welcomer	Ria Gormley	Trish Duncan
1 Readings	Patrick Harris	Alison Thompson
2 Readings	Diana Harris	Linda Wells
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	Dorothy Meyer	Yukiko
TV Setup & Slides	Graham Wood	Gary Wells
Morning Tea	Valerie & June	Gary & Linda
Flowers	Diana Harris	Ria Gormley

St Michaels

	<u>22nd September</u>	<u>29th September</u>
Welcome & Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	TBC	Bruce Goertz
Presiding	Les	Yukiko

This Week's Answer: C

Liturgical Colour: Green

Contacts

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Feedback welcome: If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please do contact the wardens, Beatrix & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Church

www.agac.org.nz

Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00

22nd September – 25th Ordinary Sunday Year B