

# BRING ME WHAT YOU HAVE

## GATHERING

Sit quietly. Allow the silence to enfold you. Be conscious of the presence of God within you.

**CONTEXT** During this pandemic as Gospel people we have been engaging with our neighbours and participating in Church despite our lack of access to a building. Our task has been to carry on the mission of Christ in this time – to bring what we have to help others.

## LISTENING

I recently heard a lovely story of a small boy who packs his backpack with biscuits and juice boxes and goes to leave the house.

His Mum says, “Where are you going?”  
The boy says, “I am going to find God.”  
So off he goes.

He ends up in a local park and sits on a bench next to a homeless woman.

He takes out a biscuit and a juice box and starts to unwrap them.

The woman watches and smiles at him and he laughs and offers her a biscuit and a juice box. They both eat, talk, laugh and enjoy each other.

Soon, the boy says goodbye and sets off for home. The woman leaves and goes off to find her friends.

When the boy gets home his mother asks, “Did you find God?”

He says enthusiastically, Yes, and God is a woman!”

The homeless woman meets up with her friends and says, “I met God in the park today – and he is a little boy!”



### Read one or several of these statements

Our response to protect one another, especially those most vulnerable to COVID-19, has been amazing. So many of us have been moved to tears by the kindness of others. There is a new movement of the Spirit in Aotearoa and although it has come about in pandemic circumstances the scriptural question "Who is my brother and sister?" has been answered in numerous and diverse ways guided by the Spirit these last weeks.

**Tui Motu Magazine. Issue 160 May 2012: 8-9 Used with permission**

As Christians we either engage with the world in all the chaos, or become irrelevant. We don't have to know all the answers — no-one does. The world is moving on. The old certainties are gone. We need to stay connected to the fundamental truth that the whole of evolution is driven by love — which is God. It's a dazzling and hope-filled vision.

**Tui Motu Magazine Issue 182 May 2014: 31 Used with permission**

"The other has a face." God help us see that the other — whichever side he or she is on — is the face of the divine. We've learned this more in our bubbles over the last weeks as we've watched our country and the world cope with the illness and death of the pandemic. We can take this compassion with us when we move to fewer restrictions

**Tui Motu Magazine. Issue 217 July 2017: 7 Used with permission**

## **BREAKING OPEN**

Where have you found God during the time of lockdown?

When have you been God for another at this time?

How have you coped with the difficulties we have faced?

**Take time to reflect and share with each other**

## **RESPONDING**

**God who is with us, hear us**

†We pray for strength to respond to those who are pushed to the margins.

†May we be grateful to those who have shared with us during the pandemic.

†May we grow in understanding that the world's resources are to be shared with all people.

†Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

**Teresa of Avila**

**Invitation to include other prayers, songs or music that suit your group.**

## **BLESSING**

Bless us, God of community  
with thoughtfulness, imagination and  
participation  
to build the lessons of lockdown into our  
lives  
to recognise tensions that undermine our  
relationships  
to understand the struggles of families  
plunged into unemployment  
to advocate for equality in our society  
to live humbly in Earth as our home  
to be loving, creative and appreciative  
in the new normal we're living into.



**WOULD YOU FIND GOD HERE?**



Used with permission

**Tui Motu day 47 May 11, 2020 Used with permission**