



Tawa Union Church

Christ centred, community facing

(Christian Churches New Zealand,
Methodist, Presbyterian)

Faka Me Sunday 02 May 2021

Welcome to Worship, we are glad you are here

Fiefia ke talitali kimoutolu'i he
potu tapu ni

Haere Mai Ki Te Koropiko

He Koa Ana Matou Kua Haere Mai Koe

Ki Konei

Welcome to Tawa Union Church

If you are a visitor we are pleased to meet you and hope you enjoy your time with us today. For further information on Tawa Union Church please speak to the worship leader or an elder, identifiable by their gold name tag.

For office details see below.

Please note your nearest fire exit.

The meeting place is the far end of the car park.

In an earthquake: Drop, Cover and Hold.

Warden: Vave Fifita

OFFICE

Audrey

Hours: Tues—Fri, 9.00am—12.30pm

The Centre, 6 Elena Pl, Tawa

PO Box 51-019, Tawa, 5249

Ph: 232-8844

Email: admin@tawaunionchurch.org.nz

MINISTER

Rev Tania Shackleton

Email: minister@tawaunionchurch.org.nz

Ph: 022 685 7688

Home Ph: 232-0229

Website: www.tawaunionchurch.org.nz

TAWA FAKA-ME 2021

Welcome – Tu’ipulotu Nuku

Garland Presentation

Introit – Hu Mai ‘Eiki / Into My Heart (Please Stand)

Lotu Hu/ Call to Worship – Rev. Tania Shackleton

Himi / Hymn 555 – Sione Uasike Finau (Please Stand)

Lotu / Prayer – Rev. Tania Shackleton

Tamai Hevani / Lord’s Prayer (Sung in Tongan)

Saame / Psalam 22: 25 – 31 (Lavinia, Melissa and Yolanda)

Hiva / Song – Fakatapui Au - Sunday School (Solo – Sione & Tu’amelie)

Kosipeli/ Gospel – Sione 15 : 1 – 8 (Anaseini, Maria and Tupouseini)

Li Pa’anga / Offering

Himi / Hymn 609 – Tu’amelie Finau (Please Stand)

Reflection – Rev. Tania Shackleton “For every child”

Himi / Hymn “The Butterfly Song” by Bruce Howard

Community Notices

Memory Verses – Juniors

Skit 1 – The Boxies – Wonderfully Made (Juniors)

Hiva / Song – Foaki Kakato (Sunday School)

Skit 2 – Our Father who art in heaven (Melissa Latu)

Skit 3 – God’s Strength (Seniors)

Acknowledgement – Tu’iplulotu Nuku

Himi / Hymn 547 – Judy Latu (Please Stand)

Kelesi / Benediction – Rev. Tania Shackleton

Hiva /Closing Blessing – Monu’ia (Sung)

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us for Morning Tea at the Hall

Many thanks to our Tongan Congregation for leading the Faka Me Service

Tania's Thought

John 15:1-8

I will admit that I find the "Farewell Discourses" (John 14-16) seriously challenging. The combination of significant metaphor; a tangible sense of, but nevertheless elusive, original context; and strange mixture of promise, encouragement, and warning that has me always approaching this text with awe and wonder. I always wonder if John was writing to a community in pain, struggling with their identity in relation to former friends and synagogue members and a host of losses and fears that are obviously present but tough to name. All of which makes me, well, rather careful that I do not read into our text things John never meant and yet unclear as to what John did in fact mean. So as always I have many questions and some I share.

"Jesus is the vine and God the Grower/Gardener." All Good. And we're the branches, also good. But... how do we understand Jesus' advance notice that the vines that bear good fruit will be cut back so they can grow more? Pruning is part of gardening; that's just how it works. At times, perhaps we have been a bit too enthusiastic in our pruning so that that which we have pruned is almost unrecognisable and yet new growth is possible and happens. It feels aggressive, but I think perhaps in due course, an assurance that God can and will take even that which is causing our hearts to ache and use it to prepare us for service.

"Separated, you cannot produce a thing" (the Message) I ponder who we hear this? The tension for me here is when offered as a statement of faith, I believe this with all my heart, but I am not sure I live like that, or pray like that, or act like that. In our daily lives many do not live like everything we do and are and accomplish depends on God. These words confront our sense of being self-made men and women in the world. And yet... maybe after a year of pandemic and uncertainty, maybe this is the day we can hear these words authentically and with new appreciation.

At first it sounds like a “telling off”, yet within these words is a promise. Indeed, because everything we do depends on Jesus therefore we can make a difference. In my faith journey I have always believed that is not up to us. It never was. It never will be. And for that I give thanks.

Throughout this text is an affirmation of both the huge dependence of the branches on the vine and at the same time the huge possibility of being branches on the vine. For the longest time I have pondered what it would look like in our own lives and in our Churches if we took this a little more seriously. What does it mean to be a branch on Jesus’ vine and might it shape our actions? I am always amazed after a Sunday morning service the emails I receive – a grumble that I’ve only stated one side of the issue, not inclusive language used and many many more. And I try to listen and learn and be respectful, and tell myself, going forward to do better, acknowledging that Faith Communities have, do, and will disagree about strategies to move forward in realizing God’s dreams for God’s people. I have learned much from folk who disagree with me. But what always leaves me a bit dumfounded is that the conversation hardly ever moves to a discussion about what Jesus actually wants for us and from us, about what Jesus might actually do in the face of the grumbling. And my heart aches as I admit that I do not at times make this conversation happen. I always pray as I try to ground whatever words or perspective I offer to the words and actions of Jesus, but at times it is so easy to be distracted by what ideologies have the moment. How wonderful it would be if our Faith Communities decided before any meetings and conversations to consider, as often as possible, that Jesus is the vine and then ask how we’re called as branches to live. To make our world more just, equitable and sustainable because of our efforts to love well.



**Thank you to the Readers
each week**

Afternoon Friendship Service on Tuesday 25 May at 2:30pm with afternoon tea to follow. This will be a monthly fellowship time – every last Tuesday of the month. We will have a short devotional time and then hospitality. This a time for anybody from our Congregation and Community who wants to join us. Invite a stranger who will soon be a friend.

Rosters

The June/July/August rosters are due to be compiled in the next few weeks. If you are not available for duties during this time please let me know as soon as possible.



Communion Sunday 6 June - We will have a shared brunch after our Communion service. You are invited to please bring a plate of food to share and to join in fellowship with others

Indoor Bowls

On **Tuesdays** at 7.30pm I Aidan Hall. Contact David Russell on 2325831.

Welcome to

“Jazz Vespers”

7 p.m. Sunday 16th May

at Tawa Union Church

6 Elena Place, with the Tawa Learners’ Band’s

“Jazz Ensemble”

- led by Rev. Tania Shackleton



Happy Celebrating

To anyone who may be having a birthday this week.



SUNDAY ROSTERS

If you are unable to do your rostered duty please arrange
a swap or substitute. Thank you

2 May Faka Me

Duty	9 May	16 May
8.30am Service	Rev Tania Shackleton	John Melville
Music	Faith Delaney	Eric Russell
Reader	Kirisimasi Poasa	Faith Delaney
9.30am Service	Rev Tania Shackleton	Rev Tania Shackleton
Elder	Jackson Lacy	Charlene Peters
Music	Eric Russell	Robin Thomson
Reader	Wendy Russell	Keith Knox
Technical Crew	Junior Mwarehwa John Melville	John Melville Vave Fifita
Prayers of People	Keith Knox	Adrienne Miller
Reception	David & Barbara Russell	David & Heather Bray
Morning Tea	Adrienne Miller Heidrun Lehmann	Bruce & Heather Collins
Cleaning	John Melville	Rona & David Belcher
Pantry	Bruce Collins	Bruce Collins
Tellers	Andre Milkop Geoff Hughes	Geoff Hughes, David Nelcher
Flowers	Heather Collins	Heather Collins
All Age Story	Jenny Wharton	Siuka Tupou
Van Driver	Keith Knox	Colin Miller
Lectionary	Psalm 98 John 15: 9-17	Psalm 1 John 17: 6-19
Communion Prep	David & Barbara Russell	
Communion Servers	Heidrun Lehmann Adrienne Miller Bruce & Heather Collins	
Longview Service		
1pm Tongan Service	Tongi'aepau Nuku	