

## **Kia ora whanau, Our Covid-19 situation at 12 August 2020**

As a church, we find ourselves waiting for the next major announcement regarding any change to Level 2- either length of time, or an increase in level (or decrease). At time of writing, Level 2 is due to end at midnight on Friday; if this is the case, then we will continue with our Sunday services.

**If** there is an extension to the length of time, we will be in Level 2, or if we find ourselves at Level 3; then we will suspend all services until Level 1. This is in line with our last journey through Level 2. I want to draw your attention to the reason behind this decision, by using the wording that came after a time of discussion and discernment by the wardens, vestry, and myself.

*“This decision was shaped by the extraordinarily strong feeling that, given we cannot gather all together as family, we will keep all services on hold until such time that we can. If we are to take seriously our call to be family, then we cannot, with all integrity, run any service that would require us to limit numbers-based on either social distancing or excluding those with underlying health vulnerabilities.*

*There were other considerations around the extensive Government Guidelines; which include ensuring that 1 metre distance is kept between all who gather at events; cleaning and sanitising all common touch surfaces and chairs between services; developing a comprehensive safety plan and ensuring that we followed contact tracing requirements. While these were a factor in our decision, it was the inability to be able”*

As with our previous journey through the various level’s, we will act in accordance with Ministry of Health Guidelines, and the wisdom of our Diocesan Leadership.

Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;
- 2 for he founded it on the seas  
and established it on the waters.
  
- 3 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?  
Who may stand in his holy place?
- 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not trust in an idol  
or swear by a false god.
  
- 5 They will receive blessing from the Lord  
and vindication from God their Savior.
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek your face, God of Jacob.
  
- 7 Lift up your heads, you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
the Lord mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, you gates;

lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
10 Who is he, this King of glory?  
The Lord Almighty—  
He is the King of glory.

May God's peace and strength be with each of you, and those whom you love.

Karl

**Rev'd Karl Dickson**