

## Liturgy for Upper Primary School Children Returning to School after Covid 19 Lockdown May 2020

### Preparation:

- Prayer focus (e.g. with white/gold/blue cloths) and spaces for 3 candles, bible
  - Matches and taper to light candles
  - Candles (unlit), bible and symbolic items placed on a table and children chosen to process in with them, holding them high and walking slowly
  - Check Powerpoint and sound works
  - Reading parts given and children allowed to prepare ahead of time:
    - Leader (teacher)
    - 3 children to read opening prayers (or 1 person to read all 3)
    - 3 readers (1 teacher, 2 children) for Gospel reading
    - 5 children to read prayers of intercession ( or 1 person to read all 5)
    - Teachers (if more than one) pre-warned that they all join in the final blessing.
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**Gathering Song:** Jesus This Day, Gather Us (John Burland)

**SLIDE 2**

Words and song are on the Powerpoint. Listen first, then sing the song. It is quite short. As it is sung, children in a procession bring three candles, a bible and if desired symbols of the lockdown, to the prayer focus.

**Leader:** Welcome back to school, everyone! Tena koutou katoa! SLIDE 3  
*Talofa lava... malo e le lei... mabuhay... ni hao... kia orana... bula vinaka... etc.*  
Let us each begin by beaming a huge smile for God, for our friends, and for our teachers... *pause for smiles...* It is good to be back at school after weeks of staying home because of Covid 19. It is good to rejoice, to be happy, and our Easter word ALLELUIA is a great word to say how we are feeling. Let's say it together:

**All: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

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**Leader:** And so, together as one, we make the Sign of the Cross in Te Reo Maori;

**All: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu, Amene.**

**Reader 1:** Loving God, Creator, Protector, Healer, you care for everyone in our school and in our world. May this candle be a sign of your light in our lives.

**SLIDE 4**

**All: May its light help us to remember that you are here with us.** *Light candle*

**Reader 2:** Risen Jesus, you walked with us and shared our human experiences. You know the feelings that we have felt in these last few weeks. May this candle be a sign of your light in our lives.

**All: May its light help us to remember that you are here with us.** *Light candle*

**Reader 3:** Holy Spirit, you move among us like wind and fire, warming our hearts and guiding us in the ways of God. May this candle be a sign of your light in our lives.

**All: May its light help us to remember that you are here with us.** *Light candle*

### Leader:

God of children and teachers, you sent your son Jesus, that we might have life in all its fullness. We thank and praise you for the gift of each other, for everyone in our families, for our homes and for our country of

Aotearoa New Zealand. May the candles burning here remind us that we are called to be a light for one another, to be Christ to others.

...pause... Let us listen to God's Word.

Reader 4: **A Reading from the Gospel of Luke -The Walk to Emmaus**

SLIDE 5

(Parts for Readers **4, 5 and 6** are colour coded)

**Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.**

**And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"**

**They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"**

**He asked them, "What things?"**

**They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."**

**Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.**

**As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.**

**But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."**

**So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.**

**They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us<sup>l</sup> while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”**

**That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.**

#### **Reader 4: The Gospel of the Lord**

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** The people who were walking along did not recognize the presence of Jesus, maybe because they were too upset and sad about what had happened on Good Friday. But when they did recognize him as he broke the bread, their hearts were full of joy and they went running to share the Good News with others.

Our lives have been a bit confusing recently but we can always be sure that the Risen Jesus is walking beside us too, listening to us and guiding us – being with us. Jesus is with us today ...and I think he will be happy that we can return to school.

Let us respond to the Gospel by joining in this song:

WITH A FAITHFUL HEART Andrew Chinn

SLIDES 6- 10

*Words and music are on Powerpoint.*

**Leader:** With a faithful and grateful heart, let us pray to God...

SLIDE 11

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Reader 5:** E te Atua, we give you thanks for our families, our teachers and all who have supported us when we could not come to school.

**ALL:** *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

**Reader 6:** E te Atua, we give thanks for the doctors and nurses who looked after the people who got sick from Covid 19.

**ALL:** *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

**Reader 7:** E te Atua, we thank you for all the essential workers who kept New Zealand safe and clean, and made it possible for families to buy food during the lockdown.

**ALL:** *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

**Reader 8:** E te Atua, we pray for those who died from Covid 19, that they will be with you in heaven. We also pray for those who are still sick, that they will get well soon.

**ALL:** *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

**Reader 9:** E te Atua, thank you for the leaders in our government, for their wisdom and kindness. We pray for all the countries of the world where Covid 19 is still causing sickness and death and ask that our whole world will soon be free of the virus.

**ALL:** *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

**Leader:** Let us say the Lord's Prayer together

**All:** Our Father....

**Leader:** Bow your heads as your teachers pray for God's blessing on you.

**Teachers:** *with raised hands in a gesture of blessing over the children.*

E te Atua o nga tamariki,

For all these children who have returned to school and for those still at home,

We ask your blessing.

May their experiences of lockdown in a pandemic make them more aware of  
the human family and our need for each other and for you.

May the Holy Spirit fill their hearts and keep them safe.

and we ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** In this month of May, let us sing to Mary, the patroness of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Concluding song: **Ka Waiata kia Maria**

**SLIDE 12**