

Disability Awareness Sunday 2024

Hei Hanga ana e te
rangatiratanga ā te Atua:
Tūmanakohia te ohorere

Building the Kingdom of God
Expect the Unexpected

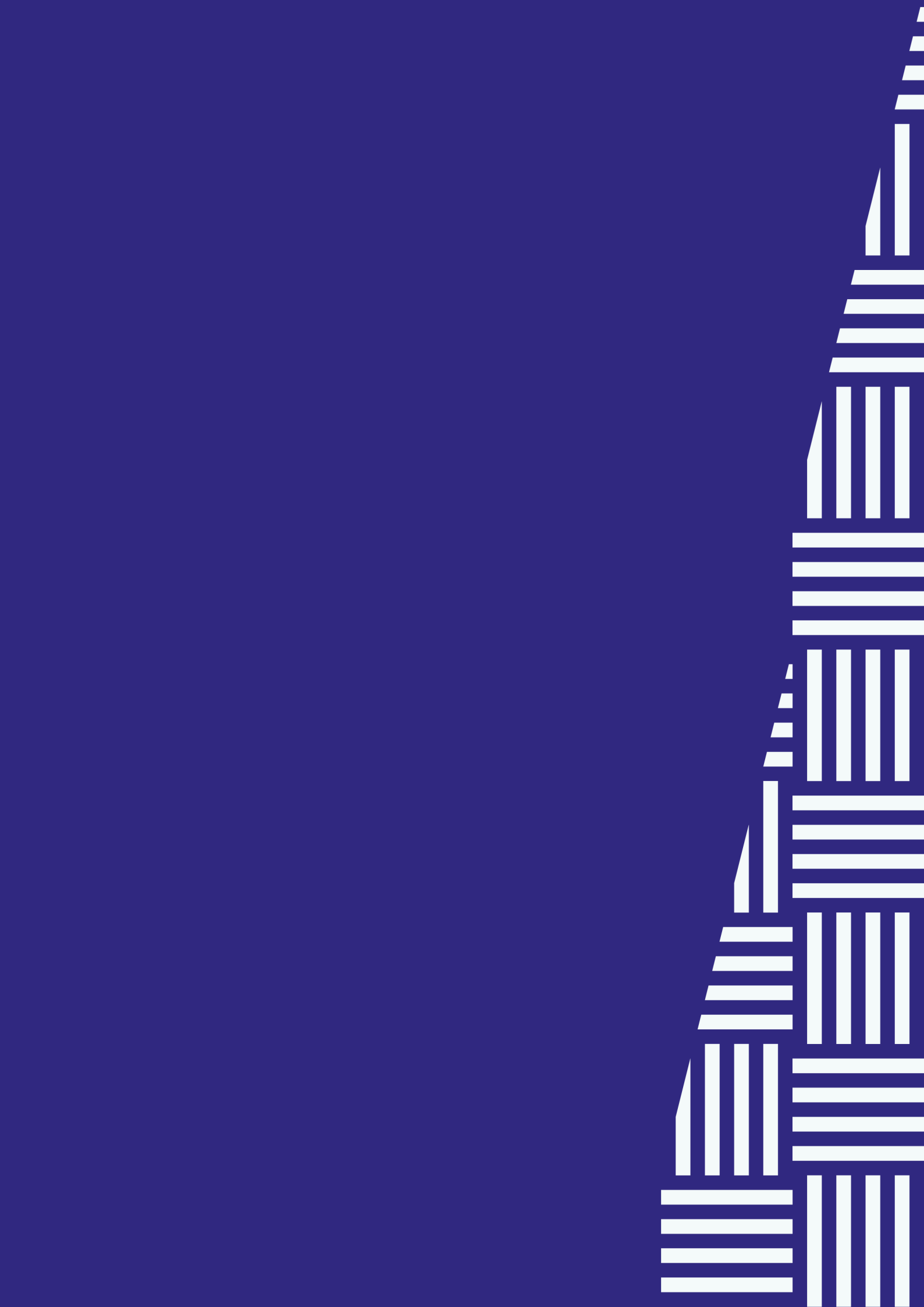
Greetings, Kia ora, Bula, Malo, Talofa, Namaste

This package provides some resources that can be
used on Disability Awareness Sunday June 16th



Disability
Ministry





Contents

Introduction	4
Disability Awareness Sunday-theme	4
How to use this resource	5
Liturgical Resources	6
Readings for June 16th	6
Collect	9
Intercessions	10
Music suggestions	11
Exploring the theme	12
Reflection points on the readings	12
Whakatauki	13
Sermon	14
Suggested Activities	16
References	17
Appendix: Fingerspelling Chart	18

Introducing the theme

This year Disability Awareness Sunday is June 16. The theme is Hei Hanga ana e te rangatiratanga ā te Atua: Tūmanakohia te ohorere Building the Kingdom of God: Expect the unexpected

In building the kingdom of God, our human expectations are challenged. Tūmanakohia te ohorere! Expect the unexpected!

Our readings today are full of the unexpected. The youngest of Jesse's sons, David becomes King of Israel. We are to regard no one from a human point of view, anymore. Jesus likens the Kingdom of God to a mustard shrub

that was considered a weed to his hearers. Tūmanakohia te ohorere! Expect the unexpected!

Disabled people are often considered having nothing much to contribute to community. However disabled people face many challenges living in the world not built for us. Through this process we develop skills such as teamwork, adaptability and creativity which are vital in community building. Celebrate the skills that we all bring to building the Kingdom of God in the places where we are! Tūmanakohia te ohorere! Expect the unexpected!



How to use this Resource Package

This package contains liturgical and theme resources and activities for Disability Awareness Sunday, June 16. Please feel free to use any of this material at other times.

We invite you to take what “speaks” to your community. Hopefully there is something that connects with your community, and you are encouraged you to take what fits your situation.

Maybe take one or two of the ideas from the “Exploring the theme” and/or images to create a sermon, have a korero (discussion) or create another activity around them. Maybe you have people within your congregation who have some experience of disability and would be willing to share this, you are encouraged to weave this into this celebration.



Liturgical Resources

Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary for June 16th

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

16The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' ²Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD."' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' ⁴Samuel did what the

LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' ⁵He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this

one.’⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The LORD has not chosen any of these.’¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not

sit down until he comes here.’¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight.⁸ Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.¹⁰ For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.




Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.



Collects

Nurturing God, by your grace, the seeds of your love grow within us. Open our minds to the mystery of growth in you, that new life may spring forth in our lives, show us afresh, the hope of Jesus in whom we experience the fullness of your new creation. May all find welcoming shelter in our communities with Jesus we pray, Amen

(Harrison J & McAlpine J; Our daily bread:2011: page 48.)

E te Matua Mutunga-kore,
na tāu Tama a Īhu Karaiti,
e whakanuia nei he Ariki nō te ao katoa,
i takohatia mai āna taonga ki te Hāhi;
tukua mātou kia noho kotahi i roto i tōu Wairua,
paiheretia ki roto i te rangimārie,
kia mauria mai ngā mea i hāngaia katoa kia koropiko
ki mua i tōu torōna;
e ora ana koe, e kīngi tahi ana,
kotahi anō Atua ake tonu atu.
Āmine.

Eternal Father,
your Son Jesus Christ,
now exalted Lord of all,
pours out his gifts on the Church;
grant us that unity which your Spirit gives,
keep us in the bond of peace,
and bring all creation to worship
before your throne;
for you live and reign
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book 2020, pg 644)

Intercessions

Here are some suggestions for intercessions.

To the bidding: God of Unexpected hope in humanity, the response is You hear our prayer.

Leader: God of Unexpected hope in humanity

Response: You hear our prayer.

God who cares for all life, you hear us as we pray for the nations of the world:

We give thanks for the moments of unexpected hope throughout the world. We pray for the honouring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities throughout the world, that all people will live lives of dignity.

Leader: God of Unexpected hope in humanity

Response: You hear our prayer.

God who brings forth great harvests from small seeds you hear us when we pray for your church:

We pray particularly for people who are making the church more aware of disability issues. Help us to be open to gifts and challenges that

differences and disability brings so together we can become more fully the body of Christ.

Leader: God of Unexpected hope in humanity

Response: You hear our prayer

God who calls us to love, you hear as we pray for the communities in which we live, work and play:

We give thanks for people we live among. We pray particularly today for a greater understanding of our common humanity together with our unique ways of being in the world. We pray for people who live with disability that all will have enough support to live well. Help us to build a community that welcomes and cares for all people.

Leader: God of Unexpected hope in humanity

Response: You hear our prayer

God of tenderness and compassion, you hear our prayer for all in need and distress:

We give thanks that all people

are precious to you. We pray for people who are sick particularly remembering particularly , for people who find disability hard to bear, for people who are disturbed and have no peace, for people who grieve for the loss of loved ones. Help us to be bearers of hope to those who are despairing.

Leader: God of Unexpected hope in humanity

Response: You hear our prayer

Leader: God of Unexpected hope, you hear the prayers and longings

of our hearts. We give thanks that you call us on the journey of faith. In the silence we pray for unexpected hope to come into our lives here and now.

Response: Give us courage to hope, and to risk disappointment. Teach us to pray expectantly, And when our prayers seem to fail, Bring us to pray again and again; For you are our God, Who acts and will act again.

Music Suggestions

Te Aroha, te whakapono, me te Rangimarie, tatou tatou e

[You shall go out with joy.](#)

For the beauty of the earth: youtube.com/watch?v=xIBkpAm3fhw
youtube.com/watch?v=99drtySjnFo

Gather us in- Marty Haugen: youtube.com/watch?v=Nh-7hApC4iQ

[The Kingdom of God is justice and joy-](#)

Summoned by the God who made us: youtube.com/watch?v=t9nGmYx7Aco

[The Kingdom of God is justice and peace](#)

[Hail to the Lord's Anointed \(variety of tunes on Youtube\)](#)

[Love divine, all loves excelling](#)

[Great is thy faithfulness](#)

[Blessed Assurance](#)

Exploring the theme

Summary points

- A major theme in the reading is that the kingdom of God challenges our expectations.
- David the shepherd boy and youngest son of Jesse is anointed King.
- In Christ, we are a new Creation no longer do we regard people from a human point of view.
- Kingdom of God being like a mustard plant.
- The mustard shrub provides shelter and nourishment for birds.
- Common plant that is considered a weed.
- In our context the Mustard plant is like gorse or manuka.
- Both gorse and manuka grow wild and are seen as both curse and gift in our environment.
- Disabled people have skills to offer in building the Kingdom of God.



Whakatauki

Ma whero ma pango ka oti ai te mahi –

With red and black the work will be complete

Every person brings their different skills to the community and together we build-up the Kingdom of God.

Iti noa ana he pito mata –

From the withered tree a flower blooms.

Tāngata whaikaha or Tāngata hauā do have unique gifts to share out of their life experience, with the community.

Kotahi te kākano, he nui ngā hua o te rākau –

A tree comes from one seed but bears many fruit.

This is a good summary of the Kingdom of God being like a mustard seed that grows into the greatest shrub offering protection to birds.

Kāhore taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini –

We cannot succeed without the support of those around us.

No one person can build community alone, each person relies on the support of others. This holds true for every person, disabled and non-disabled.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini –

I come not with my own strengths but bring with me the gifts, talents and strengths of my family, tribe and ancestors.

Our strength comes from knowing who we are and our whakapapa, and all the wisdom of our whānau. This strength comes with each person. Each person is part of a whānau.

Sermon for Disability Awareness Sunday

This is a transcript of the [sermon on powerpoint](#) for Disability Awareness Sunday on June 17. It will be able to access through YouTube (from June 1st). If you do not have access to this, it is suggested that you amend the first paragraph omitting the reference to the overloaded backpacker.

Greetings, Kia ora, Bula, Malo, Talofa, Namaste
Today is Disability Awareness Sunday; many people do not expect a wheelchair user to an independent traveller let alone an overloaded backpacker. Expect the unexpected. Today's theme is Hei Hanga ana e te rangatiratanga ā te Atua: Building the Kingdom of God Tūmanakohia te ohore. Our readings today are full of expectation of the unexpected. Things do not always follow what we expect. Disability is often what we do not expect. Tūmanakohia te ohore Expect the Unexpected! In our first reading, David the shepherd boy being called in from the field to be anointed king by Samuel. All Saul's older sons would not do. Tūmanakohia te ohore Expect the unexpected! In our second reading, we are told that in Christ we are no longer to regard anyone from a human point

of view. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Tūmanakohia te ohore Expect the unexpected! In the Gospel today, there are two parables about the Kingdom of God, here and now. The first is about the growing seed and the second is the tiny mustard seed growing into the greatest shrub. The parable highlights that growing seed is a partnership between us and God. We prepare the ground then once the grain is ripe, we harvest it. God causes the seed to grow into grain.

Likewise, the kingdom of God is a partnership between us and God. We sow the seed of the Gospel by proclaiming the Good News and provide opportunities for people to grow in faith. However, God is the one that causes faith to grow. We are to trust God and Tūmanakohia te ohore expect the unexpected! The second parable is the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, a tiny seed that grows into the greatest of all shrubs. It provides shelter and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.

Saying that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed would have shocked the people listening because the mustard shrub was an invasive weed, growing wild, very common. Yet the mustard shrub

also provided shelter and nurture for birds. Tūmanakohia te ohorere Expect the unexpected!

In our context it would be saying the Kingdom of God is like gorse or manuka. Both gorse and manuka are regarded by some people a curse and others as a blessing. Tūmanakohia te ohorere Expect the unexpected!

Being disabled is often viewed as negative in much same as the mustard shrub, gorse or manuka. Having an impairment/ being disabled has little value in our society. It often leads to embarrassment, fear, and shame. Tūmanakohia te ohorere Expect the unexpected!

Disabled people do add value to the church, through skills and insights developed through living in a world of barriers.

Disabled people deal with the world that is built for people who can walk, talk, see, hear, and think in the ordinary way. Barriers abound from inaccessible buildings and information that are not accessible to attitudes of fear and misunderstanding.

Disabled People are skilled in Tūmanakohia te ohorere expecting the unexpected.

A wheelchair user finding that the door accessible toilet is too narrow for them to use the toilet safely. A blind person being given printed instructions. Language is too complicated for some people to understand some examples are, people who are Deaf or have

cognitive impairments or have English as a second language. Comments that are well meaning but patronising, “you are very bright, you don’t seem disabled”. Responding to these barriers disabled people and whanau learn skills such as multiple ways of communication, resilience, flexibility, and valuing difference. These skills are essential in building any community including the Kingdom of God.

Disabled people are a great resource in community building because we know the power of working together because we complement each other with our diverse abilities. No one person can build community alone. Building the Kingdom of God takes the whole community, everyone bringing their skills to the task. Disabled people and whanau bring valuable insights and skills for building the kingdom of God in our faith communities. When we welcome people with diverse gifts and are open to expecting the unexpected Tūmanakohia te ohorere, we help to build the Kingdom of God in our communities.

**Revd Vicki Terrell MNZM
Resource and Development
Facilitator
Disability Ministry Education**

Activities

Everyone uses the same church entrance

This Sunday encourage everybody to use the accessible entrance into church.

For some churches this will not be an issue as everyone can enter through the door. If appropriate, you may like to invite a person who uses a walker or wheelchair or a parent of a child in a buggy to speak about their experience of being out and about in the community.

However, if your church has steps at the main entrance and has a ramp at a side door. Consider blocking the main entrance off and have everybody enter up the ramp. If this proves challenging, you may like to talk about this as part of the service.

Using New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)

Using the videos You may like to encourage people to have a go at two phrases: “Peace be with you” and “God loves you”. Also people may like to learn to sign their name and be able to sign "My name is....." . There is a fingerspelling [alphabet chart attached](#).

1 million names in Braille

Julie and Carolyn are on a mission to write 1 million names in braille. You can participate by sending the first names of your family, friends or church group in an email to julie@thatblindwoman.co.nz. Don't forget to send your address to post them to and Julie and Carolyn will aim to get your names in Braille to you within a month. Please send names to in a group to Julie.

One person is to be nominated as the contact person.

- collects all the names of people who want their name to be in braille.
- Email Julie julie@thatblindwoman.co.nz with all the names and your address.
- You will receive the names in

braille within a month.

- As a group you can have fun working out the braille names.

Names in Braille have gone to 40 countries around the world, but Julie wants to get them to more. Why not find out if you have contacts in a country that names have not yet gone to and work with her to make connections around the world.

You may like to watch the videos about the project and hear the stories of Julie and Carolyn.

Carolyn is willing to speak to people (either in person or on zoom) about church and disability. Carolyn's email is carolyn.tregea@gmail.com

References:

[A Biblical View of Disability - bethinking.org](http://bethinking.org)

[Of Such Is the Kingdom: A Practical Theology of Disability by Ancient Faith Publishing - Issuu](#)

[Mānuka, kānuka and gorse – Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#)

[66 Maori Proverbs, Sayings & Quotes + Meanings - Lingalot](#)

NZSL Fingerspelling



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L



M



N



O



P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



W



X



Y



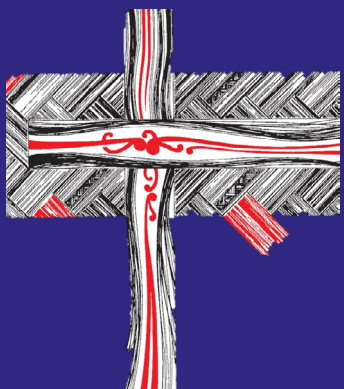
Z



Use dominant hand

NZSL Fingerspelling





Disability
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