

WE HAVE A LOT TO CELEBRATE.  
50 YEARS OF UNION,  
A REFURBISHED BUILDING  
AND A NEW MINISTER.  
WELCOME AND THANK YOU  
FOR JOINING OUR  
**CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

16 FEBRUARY 2020

JOHNSONVILLE UNITING CHURCH



# **JOHNSONVILLE UNITING CHURCH**

**Minister:** Rev Leanie Lemmer

**Organist:** Sharmala David

## **Thanks**

Many thanks to all members of JUC who have helped with and provided materials for this Celebration.

16 February 2020

## Order of Service

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Good morning:                    Leanie Lemmer

### Call to worship:

Leader: We gather in the name of Christ, to worship and belong.

**People:** In Jesus there are no barriers, we are one by the grace of God and by the power of the Spirit.

Leader: All are called to the ministry of Christ, to follow and serve in his way.

**People:** We are called to serve with our gifts, that the Good News may be spoken.

Leader: Gracious God, refresh our spirits

**People:** Sustaining God, renew our faith

Leader: Loving God, fill us with compassion

**All:** Empowering God, equip us all for ministry.

**Welcoming:**                    Heather Lange

**Let's sing:**                    ***Past and Present:***                    Used at the 1992 service celebrating  
150 years of Methodist Worship in Johnsonville

1. Past and present, with our dreaming,  
Join to make us what we are;  
Ancient wisdom, ancient follies  
Shape the way we love and care:  
Give us reverence,  
Give us wisdom,  
From the past for life today.
2. Make us mindful of the present -  
Ev'ry force, each strength, each flaw;  
Free us from those selfish motives  
Which consume us more and more:  
Give us vision,  
Give us courage,  
For this modern age of change.

3. We must face the future's challenge  
To create a better earth  
Hand in hand with all who labour  
Dream and suffer for its birth,  
For through sharing  
And through caring  
We shall build community.

Words: Bill Wallace  
Tune: CWM RHONDDA

**Where we come from:** 50 years of Union Kathy Stirrat

**Cutting of the cake:** Helen Hay and Talia Tulikifanga

**Where we are now:** Our Building John Craig

**Response:**

Leader: These buildings have enabled our union to flourish.

**All:** Yes they have!

Leader: These buildings are used for the good of the community.  
The agreement with Wellington City Council has been fulfilled.

**Cr Jill Day:** Yes it has!

Leader: These buildings have been refurbished thanks to the sale of  
St Oswald's church. The money has been spent wisely and well.

**St Oswald's:** Yes it has!

Leader: These buildings will see us into the future.

**Children:** Yes they will!

Leader: These buildings will enable our mission to flourish.

**All:** Yes they will!

AMEN

**Choir:** ***A Shepherd's Psalm*** by Joseph Martin/Stowey

**Reading:** Colossians 3:12-17 Mary Ely

**Kid's time:** Leanie Lemmer

**We sing:**

***We are Many, We are One***

*(Kids move out)*

1. *We are many, we are one,  
and the work of Christ is done  
when we learn to live in true community  
as the stars that fill the night,  
as a flock of birds in flight,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the branches of a tree,  
as the waves upon the sea,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.*
2. *All division is made whole  
when we honour ev'ry soul,  
find the life of God in ev'ry you and me  
as the fingers of a hand,  
as the grains that form the sand,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the threads upon a loom,  
as a field of flowers in bloom,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.*
3. *We will join creation's song,  
make a world where all belong,  
build as one in peace and loving harmony  
as the voices of a choir,  
as the flames within a fire,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;  
as the snowflakes in the snow,  
as the colours of a bow,  
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.*

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**Where we are going:**

Sermon Leanie Lemmer

**Offering:**

**Choir:**

***Canticle of Worship***

by Paul Williams/Joseph Martin  
including Sanctus by Franz Schubert

**Prayers for others:**

Heather Lange

**Commissioning of new minister:** Paul Prestidge (Regional Moderator)

**Parish Chairperson:** Heather Lange

Moderator, I present to you the Rev Leanie Lemmer to be recognised and commissioned as Supply Minister in Johnsonville Uniting Parish

Moderator: Explanation

**Reading:** Proverbs 3:1-6 by Meg Lange

**Words of Purpose:**

Moderator: Leanie, God has called you to serve as Supply Minister at Johnsonville Uniting Church. I invite you to declare your purpose by answering these questions:

Who is your Lord and Saviour?

**Leanie:** Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.

Moderator: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, listening to his word and putting it into practice through the Spirit of Love?

**Leanie:** I will, with God's help.

Moderator: Do you welcome this calling to be Supply Minister to Johnsonville Uniting Church?

**Leanie:** I do.

Moderator: Will you serve the community of Johnsonville Uniting Church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's provision and guidance through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

**Leanie:** I will with God's help.

Moderator: Will you, the congregation of Johnsonville Uniting Church support and encourage Leanie in her various roles of service and leadership amongst you?

**Congregation:** We will.

**Commissioning Prayer:** (Synod Superintendent)

Faithful God, we thank you for leading Leanie to Johnsonville Uniting Church. Establish and nourish her in this place so that her ministry may produce the fruit of faith, hope and love in all who are served by her. Grant her strength to persevere through times of challenge, and generosity to share her joy when there is much to give thanks for.

May your peace keep and guide her in the ways of Jesus. And may your deep love for us all characterise the ministry of Leanie at Johnsonville Uniting Church. Amen.

## Presentation of Symbols:

### Reply by Leanie:

#### We sing: ***Go as Far as You Can See*** –

Words by Bev Jones, JUC 1970 – 1992. Organist and Parish Councillor

1. The way is rising steep ahead,  
the destination clouded;  
we do not know the path we tread,  
in doubt and mystery shrouded.  
*Go on as far as you can see,  
the near horizon gaining,  
new dawns of opportunity  
appear, by God's ordaining.*
2. By faith the ancients travelled far  
to lands beyond their knowing;  
now, later saints our mentors are,  
their wisdom deep bestowing.  
*They go as far as they can see,  
the near horizon gaining,  
for glimpses of eternity  
their faithful souls are straining.*
3. The challenges that beckon me  
to neighbour and to stranger,  
may burden or may blessing be  
or lead me into danger.  
*Go on as far as you can see,  
the near horizon gaining,  
the mists of your uncertainty  
in God's clear light are waning.*
4. O living, loving, leading Lord,  
we seek your good directing,  
to walk the way the saints have trod,  
the life of Christ reflecting.  
*We go as far as we can see,  
the near horizon gaining,  
in holy hope our walk shall be  
with God, the all-sustaining.*

Words: © 2019, Beverley Jones

Tune: *BISHOPGARTH*, Singing the Faith 129, CH4 248

#### References:

"Go as far as you can see. When you get there, you'll be able to see further."  
*Thomas Carlyle.*

- Hebrews 11: 8, 10 and 12: 1-2

## Commissioning of Parish Council:

### Benediction:

Leader: In worship we have united together in faith.

**PC:** We have sung together, prayed together, and shared together in the Word of God.

Leader: Now we are called to go in mission.

**PC:** In the name of Christ we go, to proclaim the Good News, to serve our community, and to bring new hope to the world.

Leader: May grace be full in your lives, may love be the centre of your action, and may peace be in your communion together.

**Everyone:** So may it be. Amen.

**Choir:** ***O Magnify the Lord***

by Tom Fettke/Dick and Melodie Turney



Morning tea

Walk around

Lunch

### **The Choir**

#### **Conductor and Pianist**

Sharmala David

#### **Sopranos**

Lalene Roberts  
Judith Dunlop  
Elaine Scoble  
Naima Lafoa'i  
Janet McFadden

#### **Altos**

Sherryn Stewart  
Heather Lange  
Alisi'i Barton  
Val Elmey  
Barbara Weight

#### **Tenors**

Michael David  
Michael Roberts

#### **Basses**

Hugh Williams  
Rob Wilkinson



# The Journey to Union

Johnsonville Uniting Church (JUC) today is the combination of three parishes combining. In 1970 Johnsonville Methodist and Presbyterian parishes united, followed in 2004 by merger with Newlands Union Parish. Early histories of these parishes are available on: [www.juc.org.nz/history](http://www.juc.org.nz/history)

## How did we get to Union?

The ecumenical Christian movement flourished in the 1960s, with active moves for the larger Protestant denominations to combine at both parish and national level in NZ. Ecumenism gained impetus with the 1967 '**Act of Commitment**' in which Presbyterian, Methodist, Associated Churches of Christ, Congregational Union and Anglican denominations declared their willingness to seek further ways of uniting their resources.

Although joint services and other activities had taken place from time to time, positive action towards the present Uniting Parish began in March 1959 with a series of meetings to discuss the booklet '**Shall We Unite?**'

In this climate, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Johnsonville, whose membership had increased in the 1960s, actively discussed combining to build a new church serving both congregations. By 1968 the mood was right for combining and a draft agreement for Johnsonville was finalised. However the higher courts of the two churches instead proposed that we consider full union. This suggestion was overwhelmingly supported by postal ballots of both congregations and JUC came into being.

Our Union in 1970 was based on some key commitments to:

- create a new leadership team and structure.
- continue the existing Presbyterian and Methodist Ministries as
- a co-ministry.
- initially consolidate all Union Parish activities on one site.
- sell all existing property and begin anew on a fresh site.

Like any marriage, there were 'interesting' people and property issues to be resolved in the early years. But there has never been any doubt that it was a good marriage.

One factor in that success was that the parish faced immediate challenges to work as a team to consolidate on one site and then to move on by 'selling all you have' and starting again. This became the focus of our efforts for the first decade.

We were fortunate that our two ministers, Rev Bob Andrews (Methodist) and Rev 'Tank' Tankersley (Presbyterian) provided admirable examples of how to cooperate and work together. Both churches had a strong group of lay people with very clear ideas on nearly every matter. There were lengthy and passionate debates on everything from theology to painting the church. However, there was little doubt about the desirability of the union. That was a given after the way the two churches had already worked together.

### **Consolidation**

After union, JUC services were held at St Columba, Earp St which was rapidly expanded by knocking out the wall between the Church and the old Hall at the rear and painting the brown wooden interior sky blue! A Keith Hay classroom was later planted on the adjacent tennis court/car park for storage, meetings and classes.

Sunday School was held in the old Methodist church and hall until it was sold. It was run by Ron Wilkinson who was very energetic and had a wonderful vision of how to make a united Sunday School work. Approximately 300 children were there each Sunday experiencing innovative programmes.

As properties were sold, the Church and Sunday School enjoyed the hospitality of the Catholic St Brigid's School and at times of Johnsonville Main School.

### **Building Anew**

Before the Dr Taylor Terrace site was chosen, the parish carefully considered its location and form in relation to the (then) new mall and the fact that the planned Johnsonville Community Centre development was many years away. We saw part of our mission as serving the 'village' and in particular its youth, by providing a community heart. This guided the architectural brief to Gabites, Toomath, Beard and Partners. To ascertain their needs, meetings were held with any groups that might use the church and similar facilities elsewhere in Wellington were visited. The parish did not want a building only for use on Sunday. It was to belong to the wider community.

The eventual choice of the Dr Taylor Terrace site after a two-year search is well validated by the direction of Johnsonville's recent Community Centre development.

## Terrace Centre

The new building was completed at a cost of \$265,000, about \$1.88M today.

Funds were raised in the following ways:

- From the sale of three church sites and two houses.
- Task 66 in which every family was challenged to contribute \$66 over three years.
- An annual grant of \$2,000 for three years from WCC because the centre was to serve community purposes.
- Loans from the Methodist and Presbyterian special funds plus a commercial loan.
- General fundraising including a talent scheme.



The Terrace Centre was opened on 19 November 1977. A big crowd gathered on the opening day, including a TV crew who departed before the opening when they found there were no aggrieved parties to interview. The opening was a great success boding well for the future of JUC as a significant Church in Johnsonville.

## Terrace Centre - 43 years of Property Development

An administration area including a minister's study and the **Halliday Room** were added. The Halliday Room was named after George Halliday who served 48 years in youth work including some time as Convener of the Christian Education Committee.

Skylights were subsequently added to the foyer to create more light and space.

The historic **Rose Window** from the old Methodist church is now being reinstalled in the building foyer. It was in storage for 35 years before being temporarily installed in the worship space in 2009. It is a powerful symbol with many meanings.



In 1997 the Rev George Dallard (Retired Minister) initiated a drive to buy the Allen computer **Organ** which now graces the worship space.

Dedicated parishioners have cared for the property well to see it through its first 43 years. This includes oversight of significant property projects from 2000-3 when the church house was altered and renovated, the exterior of the church was repainted, the interior was recurtained, and new lighting and heating were installed.

A **Memorial Bricks** project was launched in 2000 to provide an edging of the front garden. These bricks are still in place. Landscaping of the gardens and lawns and the addition of camellias donated by individual parishioners completed this makeover of the grounds.



A dedicated project team worked with Rev Anna Gilkison to research and understand the spiritual significance of labyrinths. The group planned, designed and built the **Labyrinth** sited at the front of the church. It was officially launched on 18 October 2014 by Justin Lester, Deputy Mayor of Wellington.

### **Terrace Centre Refurbishment - 2019**

By 2019 the Centre was in need of a complete modernisation to meet current users needs. A dedicated working group oversaw this major project to upgrade the buildings which included changes in the main hall, new floor coverings, repainting, new lighting and new window coverings in all the rooms. The kitchen and toilets were completely upgraded, including a new layout. The seismic rating of the building was lifted from 78% to 100% NBS by adding a new beam in the storeroom. Fire safety has been greatly enhanced.

This upgrade costing approximately \$860,000 was financed by the sale of the St Oswald's Centre.

## **JUC - St Oswald Merger - 2004**

A covenant relationship between the Johnsonville and Newlands churches was established in 1989 and both parishes continued their work in their respective areas until 2003 when the St Oswald's congregation voted unanimously to merge with JUC. A formal agreement to merge was concluded in Oct 2003.

Rev Barry Jones and his wife Jennifer were farewelled from St Oswald's Union Church in Dec 2003 and on the first Sunday of Feb 2004, St Oswald's Union Church and Johnsonville Uniting Church became one parish. St Oswald's parishioners were met at the door by JUC parishioners and moved into church together. The St Oswald's members presented tokens representative of their church.

St Oswald's Centre was maintained by JUC until its sale in 2017. Several community groups used the centre and it was let to the Cook Islands Presbyterian Church (CIPC) for services. Their minister occupied the church house which was subsequently sold to CIPC.

In Aug 2017 our national partner churches agreed to the sale of the St Oswald Centre to a property developer for \$1.65M.

## **Name Change and New Vision**

By 1996, the ecumenical movement towards national unity of the partner churches had lost momentum and the parish decided a change of name from Johnsonville *Union* Church to Johnsonville *Uniting* Church was appropriate to indicate that progress towards union was an ongoing process.

In 2004 the just-merged parish voted to affirm *Johnsonville Uniting Church* as its name and a combined Parish Council was formed to complete the merger. In March 2005, a new constitution came into effect with a new, smaller Parish Council and Leadership Team. A fresh vision was adopted – '*A friendly, inclusive church; a caring community; an enabler of worship, learning and spiritual growth; and a gateway to the wider community.*'

## **Parish Life and Service - 1970 to Now**

The first decade of JUC's existence was not only about property changes but also was a period when the parish life was rich and varied including people of all ages, but particularly young couples and their growing families. The property projects and associated fundraising had created unity of purpose and a network of respect and friendships which transcended our small denominational differences. We were a truly united parish and it was time to shift focus to development and community work.

JUC became a base for a number of community organisations as the church continued to affirm and support the varied life of its community.

Our area is home to many young families and JUC has always made a conscious effort to involve children and young people in the life of the church, believing that children learn by being an active part of a community of faith. Children's and young people's programmes have been a feature of the parish. In 1978 there were 305 communicant members and 147 on the Sunday School roll. In line with wider societal changes these numbers have since fallen dramatically. However, our children's ministry has recently rejuvenated and is growing once again as it becomes an important influence on parish life.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Wellington Girls' Brigade Company has been part of the church community for many years and remains active. A Boys' Brigade Company was formed in 1980 but is no longer active.

Over the years, parish life has included sponsoring and supporting refugee families, services at Hay Ward at Porirua Hospital (started in 1979), services in several local rest homes/retirement villages, progressive dinners, pastoral visiting, church fairs and fundraisers, stewardship programmes, partner church responsibilities and so much more.

From 1982, regular monthly services were provided at Churtonleigh Rest Home and in 1983 a Meals on Wheels distribution point began operating from Terrace Centre.

Relationships with neighbouring churches have included an annual Easter procession through the centre of Johnsonville, ecumenical healing services, a float in the Johnsonville Christmas Parade (since 2007) and annual World Communion Day and Ash Wednesday services.

**House Groups** For about 20 years from 1982 up to five small House Groups met fortnightly in parishioner's homes to engage in study and discussion covering a broad range of theological perspectives. These groups played an important role in broadening our understanding of Christianity and were a stimulus of ideas for action by ourselves and JUC. House Groups were eventually replaced by Family Groups.

A **Peace Group** was formed in 1987 that engaged the parish with issues in the wider community.

**Family Groups** The Roman Catholic Passionist model for pastoral care was adopted in 1998. JUC was the first Protestant church to join the Family Group movement. Our groups were seeded by our neighbouring Catholic parish of St Peter and Paul's which opened the way for a positive relationship with them that has included combined services, shared picnics and group activities, a shared study series and forming of friendships. These groups are more pastoral and social than the House Groups were.

Family Groups arrange their own activities each month. These range over a large variety of activities in people's homes, at the church and at other venues. There is an annual 'birthday' function that brings all the groups and other parishioners together for a celebration. However, the events are only the face of the groups at work. Much of what really happens is in the relationships, support, friendships, celebrations and other events that occur informally within the groups. The Family Groups are an integral part of JUC parish life.

### **Supporting personal journeys**

As a faith community, JUC seeks to support and encourage people in their spiritual journeys. Over the years JUC has been home to some members who have entered Christian ministry. These included Edith Little, Evelyn Williams, Bob Short, Robin Gray, Derek McNicol, Jed Baker and Henry Resink. We've also encouraged and supported lay ministry by Hugh Williams, Don Baker, Michael Player and recently Judith and Boyd Dunlop.

Our church has enabled and encouraged a significant number of parishioners to lead worship or participate in a variety of ways. Lengthy ministry vacancies have provided an opportunity to build capable worship teams to be supported by supply ministers. The parish has succeeded in not only providing continuity of worship but also built strength in worship leadership within the parish.



**Op Shop:** JUC joined with other local churches to form the Interchurch Opportunity Shop in 1982. After 38 years, the Shop, located in the Community Centre in the heart of Johnsonville continues to provide an important service to the community. It is staffed by volunteers, including some from JUC. Op Shop profits are distributed to participating churches.

**Terrace Centre Trust (TCT)** was set up in 1996 to broaden the kind of help JUC contributes to the wider community. TCT is associated with, but not part of the church. Our church is represented on the Trust and many of the activities of the Trust occur at the Terrace Centre. The Trust is still active and provides counselling services. It has carried out social research in the area and has run parenting skills classes. TCT continues to be well supported by the wider community.

**Unicat** (*Uniting Church Catering*) was a group of parishioners operating from 1975 to 2018 to raise money to equip the kitchen in the new buildings. Requests for Unicat services grew as it gained a reputation for the quality of food and its presentation, availability and cost. Unicat provided a double benefit for teams of parishioners; working together and enjoying the socialising that came with the catering. After achieving its initial goal, Unicat contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars of discretionary funding for church projects; and supported community and mission activities.

**Vanuatu Venture** In 2005 the parish responded to an urgent need to provide direct practical aid to the village of Lelepa, on Lelepa Island, Vanuatu after a cyclone had left a trail of damage, and in particular to rebuild the church as a safe community haven and place of worship. JUC raised about \$49,000 to replace the roof and a team of JUC parishioners, including teens, spent time at Lelepa helping with the project and getting to know the people. The Vanuatu Venture project was successfully completed and 10 members of the team later returned for the church reopening in 2008.



Pastor Kalsakau from the Lelepa Island Church visited and preached at JUC in 2007 and a magnificent banner was created as a gift for him to take back to his Church. In March



2015, Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu causing widespread damage. John Craig returned to Lelepa to assess the needs and JUC raised a further \$5,085 for repairing damage and installing a solar energy system to provide church lighting.

## **Talents**

JUC has always been fortunate in having a large number of talented and highly motivated people. In the 1970's, annual family camps, usually at Otaki Bridge Lodge and latterly at Forest Lakes were a regular feature. Up to 150 attended. Their Saturday night variety show, shared meal preparation, discussions and participation in creating a Sunday worship service 'on the fly' were memorable experiences for a generation of parents and children.

There are strong memories of the three musical shows the parish presented. These started during Ian Norwell's ministry (1978-1984) and took place over a couple of nights in either the Onslow College hall or Raroa Intermediate hall. These shows were a wonderful chance to showcase the amazing singing, acting and dancing talents within the parish. A huge amount of rehearsing went into the performances. The shows were a lot of fun and financially worthwhile but mostly they built the parish team.

A church choir assembles from time to time to enhance Christmas and Easter music.

The Tinakori Handbell Ringers have been regular contributors to worship.

In 2000, JUC partnered with Newlands *New Players* to present a 'Mystery Theatre' series at the Terrace Centre. Shows, written by Rev Peter MacKenzie, starred some parishioners. Unicat catered, engaging 60 people in preparing and serving food. This successful series was fun and also raised funds.

Regular Sunday afternoon concert series were held for a number of years that attracted quality performers and good attendances.

## **The Journey Continues - Celebrating 50 Years of Union**

There is now a generation of people in the parish who no longer identify as either Methodist or Presbyterian. They have grown up belonging to the Johnsonville Uniting Church. Many older parishioners too, no longer identify with the traditions of either denomination. Members of JUC are convinced that the move to union was the right one and they view debates about church union with amusement because for them there is no doubt at all. We are a vigorous and harmonious community of Christian people.

**Johnsonville Uniting Church** is an inclusive faith community of ordinary people supporting each other as we follow Christ by: participating in a musical event, singing in the choir, taking part in services, providing music for worship, participating in study and prayer groups, being part of the prayer vine, taking services at retirement villages, singing carols in rest homes, attending Parish Council and committee meetings, being with their Family Group, serving morning tea, working the sound system, being a door steward, helping with Care and Craft, supporting a drought-stricken farming community, keeping the Cradle Roll, swinging a shovel at a working bee, helping with Meals on Wheels, working at the Op Shop, recording minutes for meetings, taking care of the weekly offerings, preparing communications and updating the website, leading worship, playing the organ or the ukulele, knitting socks for school children, making up Christmas boxes, working with Lelepa Islanders, washing dishes in the church kitchen, preparing and serving food at functions, visiting and supporting those in need, or having a chat and being positive in the workplace, neighbourhood or community.

For the people of the Johnsonville Uniting Church, friendship, service and vision arise out of the deep experience of worship, of mutual support, growth and action and above all, of the call to Christ.

## ***JUC Ministers***

1967-72	Bob Andrew (M)
1967-73	'Tank' Tankersley (P)
1974-77	Malcolm Highet (P)
1978-84	Ian Norwell (M)
1979-81	Edith Little (Deacon) (M)
1981-82	Allan Elmore (P) (Exchange Minister from Kingsport, Tennessee, USA)
1982-86	Edith Little (Minister) (M)
1985-92	Richard Lawrence (P)
1989-93	Glenn Livingstone (P) (Shared Ministry with St Oswald's)
1992-93	Ernie Hepplethwaite (M)
1994-98	Keith Taylor (M)
2000-09	Peter MacKenzie (P)
2010-17	Anna Gilkison (M)
2019.....	Leanie Lemmer



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## **JOHNSONVILLE UNITING CHURCH**

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