

Disability Awareness Sunday

June 21 2026



**Kia noho katoatia ko te tinana o te Karaiti:
Being fully the body of Christ**

**Exploring a theological statement on Disability
in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New
Zealand and Polynesia**

**This package provides some resources
that can be used on Disability Awareness Sunday**





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Introduction

How to use this resource pack

This package contains liturgical and theme resources and activities for Disability Awareness Sunday, June 21.

This year there is a chance to explore a theological statement on Disability in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. In this package there are resources to help you;

- Connect the theme with the readings
- Explore the statement with a video and a discussion guide.
- Poster on the Theological Statement on Disability.
- Full text of the Statement.

It is suggested that the video is played in place of the sermon and a discussion is held after worship. It is hoped that a cross-section of your faith community will take part in the discussion.

Maybe you have people within your congregation who have some experience of disability who would be willing to share their responses to the statement and help facilitate the discussion.



Introducing the Theme

Kia noho katoatia ko te tinana o te Karaiti: Being fully the body of Christ.

Being fully the Body of Christ is living life as God's image bearers looking outward and embracing the people God calls us to be.

In readings from Genesis and Jeremiah we are reminded that in the harsh realities of life God loves and is faithful to us. Secured in God's love and faithfulness, readings from Romans and Matthew then call us to turn from our own interests to embrace the people God call to be.

The challenge is to become part of the Body of Christ where barriers between people are broken down, and we work together to bring hope our world.

The theological statement picks this theme and commits the church for fully include all people, that together we become more fully the Body of Christ.



Liturgical Resources

Readings from Revised Common Lectionary

12th Sunday in Ordinary time/

Te Rātapu Tekau mā rua o He Wā Noa

Continuous

Genesis 21: 8-21

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.

¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.”

¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.

¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you.

¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.”

¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, and she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away.

⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.



¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Psalm 86:1-10,16-17

¹ Turn your ear to me O Lord and answer me: for I am poor and in misery.

² Preserve my life for I am faithful: my God save your servant for I put my trust in you.

³ Be merciful to me O Lord: for I call to you all the day long.

⁴ Gladden the heart of your servant: for to you Lord I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you Lord are good and forgiving:
and of great mercy to all who call upon you.

⁶ Give heed O Lord to my ' prayer:
and listen to my cry of supplication.

⁷ In the day of my distress I will call:
and surely you will answer me.

⁸ Among the gods there is none like you O Lord: nor can the deeds of any be compared with yours.

⁹ All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you: and they shall glorify your name.

¹⁰ For you are great, and do marvellous things:
truly you alone are God.

¹⁶ Turn to me then and have mercy, give your strength to your servant: and save the son of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Give me a sign of your favour, that those who hate me may see it, and be put to shame:
because you Lord have been my help and my comfort.



Related

Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”

For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, “I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,” then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: “Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”

All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.

“Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.





Psalm 69 8-11 (12-17) 18-20

⁸ I have become a stranger to my family: an alien to my mother's children.

⁹ Zeal for your house has consumed me: and insults aimed at you have fallen on me

¹⁰ When I afflicted myself with fasting: that was turned as a reproach against me.

¹¹ I put on sackcloth also: and I became a by-word · among them.

¹² I am the talk of those who sit at the gate: and the drunkards · make songs about me.

¹³ But Lord I make my prayer to you: accept me now in your great love.

¹⁴ Answer me O God: with your unfailing help.

¹⁵ Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink: let me be delivered from the muddy depths.

¹⁶ Do not let the flood engulf me, or the deep swallow me up: or the Abyss of death close its mouth upon me.

¹⁷ Answer me Lord, for your love is good: turn to me in your ' great compassion.

¹⁸ Do not hide your face from your servant: be swift to answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁹ Come near to me and redeem me:
O ransom me because of my enemies.

²⁰ You know my reproach, my shame and humiliation:
my enemies are all in your ' sight.



Romans 6:1-11

¹What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase?

²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?

³Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin.

⁸But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.





Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known.

²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven,

³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me,

³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.





Sentence and Collects

Te Rārangi o te Rā

Ko te tangata i whiwhi ki te ora
e mate anō ia; ā, ki te mate
tētahi mō Īhu te take, ka kitea
anō e ia.

Matiu 10:39

Te Īnoi o te Rā

E te Atua Tapu, hōmai ki a
mātou tōu māramatanga
me tōu aroha kia wetekina atu
te matakū;
kia tupu ake, kia māia ake,
ki te āta rongō,
ki te āta ngāwari hoki;
Ko Īhu Karaiti tō mātou
Kaihoko.
Āmine.

Sentence of the Day

Those who find their life will
lose it, and those who lose
their life for Jesus' sake will
find it. Matthew 10:39

Collect of the Day

Holy God, grant us the
beginning of wisdom
and love to cast out every
fear:
that we may grow more
brave,
more ready to hear,
more ready to obey;
through Jesus Christ our
Redeemer.
Amen.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book 2020, pg 646.)

Passionate God, your word burns like fire within, challenging us. By our baptism, we are immersed in your resurrecting love. When we are distracted by our own human relationships and needs, fill us with an abundance of your grace, that we may respond to your radical call to justice and hope for all people. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

(Harrison J & McAlpine J; Our daily bread:2011: page 26.)

Intercessions

To the bidding: Faithful God who loves us the response is You hear our prayer.

Leader: Faithful God who loves us

***Response:* You hear our prayer.**

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

We pray for the increasing tensions in our world and give thanks for those moments where people go above and beyond themselves in compassion for others. 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.

Faithful God who loves us

***Response:* You hear our prayer.**

Leader: Faithful God who loves us and calls us to love we pray for your church:

We give thanks that you invite us to live more as the Body of Christ

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. We pray particularly for the Anglican Disability Summit being held in Wellington this weekend. Also, we pray for ourselves as we consider the theological statement on Disability in our church.

Faithful God who loves us

***Response:* You hear our prayer.**



Leader: 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 the people we live among. We pray particularly today for a greater understanding the ways we can include all people in our communities as Jesus includes us. We pray for people who live with disability that all will have enough support to live well.

Faithful God who loves us

***Response:* You hear our prayer.**

Leader: 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.

Faithful God who loves us

***Response:* You hear our prayer**

Leader: Faithful God who loves us

you hear the prayers and longings our hearts. We give thanks that you call us on the journey of faith. In the silence we pray for awareness of your faithfulness holding our lives in your embracing love, 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 is faithful and loves us deeply, who acts and will act again.**

Lords Prayer in Te Reo Māori - At The Abbey 2024

The Lord's Prayer in Te Reo Māori: Ko te inoi a te Ariki (2 mins) with NZ Sign Language.



Music Suggestions

How much am I worth?

Colin Gibson

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1050452050056438>

I heard the voice of Jesus say
[KINGSFOLD]

[Bing Videos](#)

Praise with joy the world's Creator

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2T4zptmvs4>

When we are living, we are in the
Lord

[Bing Videos](#)

God! When human bonds are broken
(2 tunes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaYtn-UCNnU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLbBJXSBod0>

By gracious powers so wonderfully
sheltered

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HS6Fd0b3E2c>

What a friend we have in Jesus

[Bing Videos](#)

Now let us from this table rise

[Bing Videos](#)

E Te Atua Kua Ruia Nei

E te Atua kua ruia nei o purapura pai

Homai e koe he ngakau hou Kia tupu ake ai

Now in your name o Lord our God one good seed has been sown

Give us new hearts that you may see the harvest fully grown.

E Ihu kua e tukua kia whakangaromia,

Me whakatupu ake ai, Kia kitea ai nga hua

Let not the good seed sown be lost make it spring forth and live

In beauty and in fruitfulness glory to you give.

A ma te Wairua Tapu ra matou e tiaki

Kei hoki ki te mahi hei O matou ngakau hou

And may the Lord, Holy Spirit guide, guard us and sustain

That we stray not, but constantly our holy faith maintain.

Two tunes found on U-tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OWRpw5DiJ4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO5W68L0sy4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO5W68L0sy4&list=RDdiO5W68L0sy4&start_radio=1



We're created in the image of God

A new Hīmene-hymn for Disability Awareness Sunday 2026

by Leo Te Kira

We're diverse in ways we see and hear,
We're created in the image of God.
We're diverse in ways we move and think,
We're created in the image of God.

We're created, we're created,
We're created in the image of God.

We're created, we're created,
We're created in the image of God.

And our Church is called to hold us all,
We're created in the image of God.
And our Church is called to involve us all,
We're created in the image of God.

We're created, we're created,
We're created in the image of God.

We're created, we're created,
We're created in the image of God.

Ahakoā te kite, te rongō, Kua hanga e te Atua.
Ahakoā te tu, te mārama, Kua hanga e te Atua.
Kua hanga, kua hanga, Kua hanga e te Atua.
Kua hanga, kua hanga Kua hanga e te Atua.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49q3T0lyuJE>

Please note Te Reo comes first.

Sincere thanks to Karen Plimmer and mates for recording



Exploring the theme

Connecting with Scripture

Our readings today both bring comfort and challenge. God loves and is faithful to us. Secured in this God love and faithfulness, we are challenged to live in ways that bring hope to the world, rather than only protecting ourselves. We are invited to respond by turning and leaving behind what is holding us back from fully embracing the people God calls us to be.

Disabled people can be left on the sidelines in society because of environmental or attitudinal barriers. Sometimes this can happen in our church through ignorance or not knowing how to overcome barriers.

Disability is often mentioned in hushed tones this does not serve anyone well. Attitudes based outdated myths can harm relationships and stop us from becoming Body of Christ where all members serve each other.

“Being kind” by not expecting from a disabled person in the way of being part of the body of Christ may stop or disable the ministry and mission of the Church. The challenge is to find new ways in which all members of the body of Christ can work together to fulfil the ministry and mission of Christ in our part of the world.





Disabled people do have a lot to offer to enrich our faith communities. Disabled people along with other marginalised people can help the church become more wholly the Body of Christ where we all can give and receive. This strengthens our witness to our world where all people are welcome and embraced as God's image-bearers.

A well-known whakataukī-proverb

In 1858, after being conferred the first Māori monarch the first Māori King, Pōtatau Te Wherowhero spontaneous declared unity and mutual respect as key to human flourishing -

"Kotahi anō te kōhao o te ngira. E kuhuna ai te miro ma, te miro pango, te miro whero. I muri mai, kia mau ki te aroha, ki te ture me te whakapono."

"There is but one eye of the needle through which the white, black and red threads must pass. After this, hold fast to love, to the law, and the faith."

His immediate respect towards diversity has been seen as a hallmark of the Waikato-Tainui people ever since 1858.



Theological Statement on Disability

Background

In 2023, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia initiated work on a theological statement on Disability to ground the work of the Disability Ministry Educators in the Church.

A small group initially worked on the statement resulting in the current statement.

The video came out of a discussion on the Statement during “The Rights of Disabled People in the Church” zoom series held in the Social Justice Week in September 2024.

Until now, there has not been a wide discussion on the statement in the church. This Disability Awareness Sunday is a good opportunity to have some discussion/Korero/Talanoa in your ministry units around the statement.

It is hoped that the video will stimulate discussion across the church on the Theological Statement on Disability, so it becomes more widely known and affirmed by the church.

How to engage with the Theological Statement on Disability

It is recommended that the video is played in the sermon slot and a discussion follows to allow people to share thoughts and give any feedback. The discussion could take place either after the service, possibly over lunch, or immediately after the video.

ADN Theological Statement Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7nbio1fMsU&t=77s>



Discussion on the Statement

You can discuss the Statement in three ways by using the video discussion guide OR the poster OR the full statement.

Video Discussion Guide

You may like to use the questions below to guide your discussion. These discussion points and questions come from the video. You may only want to talk about some points

Part 1:

Because disability is part of our human experience, disabled people also bear the image of God, and by virtue of baptism, are partners in the mission and ministry of the church.

Discuss the statements:

Disability is part of human experience

Disabled people bear the image of God

How do we embrace differences?

What excites us about embracing differences?

What do we fear about differences?

What would help us embrace differences more?

Part 2:

Disability reminds us of the diversity of our humanity and our need for one another as the people of God.

Discuss the statements:

Prophets and spiritual heroes are different
always been present in the church.

Healing may come through listening
and understanding of a disabled person





Discussion of video(Continued)

Part 3:

Because disability is part of our human experience, disabled people also bear the image of God, and by virtue of baptism, are partners in the mission and ministry of the church.

Discuss these points:

How do we see Christ in each other?

How do we experience the hospitality of the Spirit?

The building of the kingdom to which everyone contributes.

Part 4:

We are committed to the full inclusion of all people as God's image-bearers and full members of the church, that together we may become more fully the Body of Christ.

Discuss these points:

Some disabled people are not given
the opportunity to contribute.

Believe us when talk about our needs.

Believe us, include us so together
we create a hospitable place for all!

Healing flows in both directions-
disabled people and the faith community
How do we create a Healing environment?





Poster Discussion Guide

You can use the poster as a basis for discussion. Discussing each point in turn and using the full statement in explanation

Disability is part of human experience.

Disability reminds us of the diversity of our humanity.

Disabled people bear the image of God.

Disabled people are full participants in the Body of Christ.

***We commit to fully include all people, that together
we may become more fully the Body of Christ.***

General discussion on the Theological Statement

After reading the full statement you are invited to have a free-flowing discussion about it using these simple questions:

What do you agree with?

What do you disagree with?

What are the questions you have?

Suggestions for improvement



Contributing to the wider discussion in the Church

We are keen to hear your feedback especially your queries/ questions about the statement. You are encouraged to answer these four questions:

- **What do you agree with in the Theological Statement?**
- **What do you have questions about in the Theological Statement?**
- **Do you have suggestions of how the Theological Statement could be improved?**
- **Other comments and feedback**

Feedback can be given as a group or as individuals, the more feedback we receive the better the statement will reflect our church.

Please send your feedback to Revd Vicki Terrell
resources@anglicandisability.org





Theological Statement on Disability

*Disability is
part of human
experience.*



*Disabled people
bear the image
of God.*

*Disability
reminds us of
the diversity
of our humanity.*

*Disabled people
are full
participants in
the Body of
Christ.*

*We aim to fully include all people,
that together we may become
more fully the Body of Christ.*

Full text of the theological Statement can be found at
<https://anglicandisability.org/theology-of-disability>



A theological statement on Disability in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

As Anglicans, we believe that each person is made in, and bears the image of God. We believe that through our baptism we are all ministers of the Gospel as members of the Body of Christ. As human beings, we all live within the diversity of humanity, yet by God's grace we are given gifts for building up the Body of Christ and building the Kingdom. Because disability is part of our human experience, disabled people also bear the image of God, and by virtue of baptism, are partners in the mission and ministry of the church.

In Scripture we see that personal impairments need not be a barrier to answering God's call. For example, when Moses protested to God about his calling, citing his speech impairment as a barrier to ministry, he was supported in his calling by Aaron (Exodus 4:10-17). The story of Moses challenges our assumptions about independence and autonomy in relation to ministry and reminds us that impairment need not be a barrier to it. In the incarnation, Jesus' humanity, in his life, death and resurrection, challenges and gives hope that, in vulnerability as well as in strength, we are called to be bearers of the Gospel and full participants in the Body of Christ.

We recognise that some understandings of disability can create stigma and ultimately exclusion from full participation in the life of the church. We also recognise that the concept of healing can be challenging in the context of disability. When Jesus healed in the Gospels, it always included people being restored to their community. We affirm that healing can be experienced as full inclusion in the life of the community of faith.





Theological statement on Disability (continues)

Healing can also come from being loved and accepted for who we are, in all our diversity in the community of faith, and being invited as full members to contribute to the ministry of that community. The community becomes whole when we all work together, and thus reflecting the relationship between the three persons of the Trinity. We affirm that we want to live out the Gospel in ways that are mana-enhancing for all. As a church we therefore commit ourselves to the principles of manaakitanga as we foster a culture of full inclusion.

We are committed to pathways of education and advocacy to nurture a culture of faka'apa'apa / highest respect and tauhi va' / healthy relationships for our mutual flourishing. Manaakitanga is expressed not just in our community life, but also extends to the way we structure our environments to be accessible to all. The need for physical access is understood as a matter of hospitality and inclusion for all people.

In the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia we commit ourselves to offering space to learn from the experiences of disabled people. Disability reminds us of the diversity of our humanity and our need for one another as the people of God.

We affirm the mana of all people, regardless of their experience of being human. We are committed to the full inclusion of all people as God's image-bearers and full members of the church, that together we may become more fully the Body of Christ.





Contributing to the wider discussion in the Church

We are keen to hear your feedback especially your queries/ questions about the statement. You are encouraged to answer these four questions:

- ***What do you agree with in the Theological Statement?***
- ***What do you have questions about in the Theological Statement?***
- ***Do you have suggestions of how the Theological Statement could be improved?***
- ***Other comments and feedback***

Feedback can be given as a group or as individuals, the more feedback we receive the better the statement will reflect our church.

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