



## **Welcome to Worship**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OF DECEMBER 2019**

## **Christmas Celebration**

A Congregation of Grace Presbyterian  
Church of New Zealand





# Welcome to Shore Presbyterian Church

**New to Church?** We do understand that coming to a church meeting can be an uncomfortable experience for many people. We don't want you to feel anxious. Our style is relaxed and friendly and nobody will be put on the spot or asked to do something unfamiliar. ***You can simply be here and observe or participate to the degree you are comfortable.*** You do not have to be a Christian; this is an opportunity, in a non-threatening environment to learn more about who Jesus is and why we want to follow him. If you don't feel like praying, singing, or even standing up you don't need to, no one will think less of you. We will try to explain some aspects of the meeting as we go but we realise that some of our practices may seem strange. If you have any questions about why we do any of the things we do please don't hesitate to ask anyone who's involved with the service. Our pastor would love to answer any questions you have about the service or the message.

## **Children's Ministry - Children are an important part of all we do.**

In the second half of the meeting during the teaching time a program is available for children. ***The children's group***, 3 to 9 years old, will meet in Classroom 3. ***Pre-teens***, over 9 years old, will meet in the Crèche room opposite the hall entrance. This will be a time of interactive fun and teaching at their level so they too can understand the things concerning Jesus. You are **free as families** to send your children to that program **or** to keep them in the main meeting. We encourage children to be part of the main meeting as we believe God's heart for them is large and they too are able to learn the great things of the Christian faith. **There are worksheets available at the back for use during the message if you find this helpful.**

**Crèche: AREA 1** – This is available for **0 to 2 year olds**, during the sermon time, in the room on the right hand side of the building directly opposite the hall entrance. The person running the crèche will be waiting and available at the back of the hall. If they are not there then they will already be serving in the crèche room. **AREA 2** - The back part of the meeting room also has a child-friendly area where parents can feel a little more relaxed with their small children but still join in the worship.

**Thanks again for joining with us this morning. We hope you find the time to be both encouraging and thought provoking. Please join us after the service for coffee, tea and snacks.**

***"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because  
He has come and has redeemed his people."***

**Call to Worship** Isaiah 9:6,7<sup>1</sup>

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall  
Be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful  
Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to  
uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and  
for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Opening Prayer**

**Songs of Adoration<sup>2</sup> & Praise** *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

Author: Anonymous

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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<sup>1</sup> All passages of Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.

<sup>2</sup>Adoration: the act of paying honour, as to a divine being; worship; reverent homage; fervent and devoted love.

O come, desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and sorrows cease  
Fill all the world with heaven's peace  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

### ***Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming***

Author: Anonymous

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright,  
Amidst the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, He gave to us a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story  
Proclaimed by angels bright,  
How Christ, the Lord of glory  
Was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped  
And in the manger found Him,  
As angel heralds said.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.

### **Scripture reading** *Luke 1:26-35*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

### **Scripture reading** *Luke 2:1-21*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you

will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”<sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.<sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.<sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.<sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## **Christmas Video** *There's A Dragon in my Nativity*

## **Songs of Praise** *Go Tell It On The Mountain*

African American Spiritual

While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens,  
There shone a holy light,

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Saviour's birth,

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation,  
That blessed Christmas morn,  
*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

## ***Silent Night***

Author: Joseph Mohr

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **Dedication of offering<sup>3</sup> and prayer for children**

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<sup>3</sup> See footnote on page 13



## **Christmas Message** *“Taking Time to Find Peace in our World”*

*There are worksheets at the back for children if you wish during the message*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **I. WHO IS HE IN YONDER STALL? – Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:26,27,**

**A. CONTINUITY – Man/Messiah, Luke 1:31-33**

**B. DISCONTINUITY – Son of God/Sinless, Luke 1:35**

#### **II. AT WHOSE FEET THE SHEPHERDS FALL**

**For whom did He come? - Luke 2:8-10; Matthew 2:1,2**

#### **III. WHAT DOES HE BRING?**

**Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin**

**A. PEACE WITH GOD**

**B. PEACE WITHIN**

### **CONCLUSION**

## **Closing Songs** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Author: Phillip Brooks

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

## ***Joy to the World***

Author: Isaac Watts

Joy to the world the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders, of his love.

## **Benediction Together...**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen** 2 Cor 13:14

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***We pray that, through the rest and refreshment of this  
Christmas and holiday season, you may grow in the  
knowledge of the Lord Jesus, Whom to know is eternal life.***

***Looking forward to gathering, worshipping,  
growing and serving together in the New Year***

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## NOTICES

### Encouragement Groups

#### Torbay

**When** Sunday evenings, 6:30 pm, *Currently on break*  
**Where** Boyd's home, 15 Summit Drive Torbay  
**Contact** Pastor Pete 473 9390 or 021 0367 957  
**Note** Bring & share lunch, last Sunday of the month

### Lord's Supper and Fellowship Meal

**When** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, next: 6<sup>th</sup> of January

### Prayer Meeting

**When** 7:15, now on break until the New Year  
(2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of the month)  
**Where** Boyd's home, 15 Summit Drive, Torbay

### Men's ministry

**What** Men...encouraging men...reaching men (young & not so young)  
Looking at the issues facing men today in light of the Gospel of Christ  
**When** Now on break until the New Year (monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)  
**Where** Steve's place, 2/11 Regatta Road, Torbay  
**Contact** Pastor Pete 021 0367 957 or Steve 022 647 0931

### Women's Ministry

**What** Ladies Bible Study and fellowship - all ages  
**When** Currently on break for October  
**Where** TBA  
**Also** Women's Retreat in 2020 – watch this space for updates

### Shore Presbyterian Church Family Camp

**What** A weekend of fun, fellowship and growth  
**Where** Mangawhai Heads  
**When** Friday evening the 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2020

## Grace Theological College

Please check the flyer on the back table for opportunities in 2020 to deepen faith and knowledge and to be equipped for service.

## Painting in the Hall

Long Bay Primary School have advised us that they are painting the hall, toilets, entry and kitchen over the Christmas period, that is, from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. This is not intended to disrupt our worship but there may be some paint smell still lingering on Sunday mornings. All paint is water based so there will be no nasty enamel paint smells. We give thanks for the School's kindness to our Church.

## New Year's Eve BBQ at the Grants

**When** Tuesday 31st December, from 5:30pm.

**Where** 2/32 Sea Vista Ave, Beach Haven. (Additional parking on Mariner's View Rd).

**BYO** Meat, drinks, friends. Salads and dessert provided.

**RSVP** to Christine or Ian by 29 December.

## Serving Roster for next Sunday the of 29<sup>th</sup> of December

SHORE KID'S LEADER	CRECHE	KITCHEN & MORNING TEA	OPEN UP & FIRE WARDEN	HALL SET-UP	HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP	SUPERVISE PLAY GROUND
TBA	Volunteer	Karen van Bemmelen	Dennis	Dennis, Ian Grant & Jesse Song	Dennis, Ian & Jesse plus Volunteers	Volunteers

### *Shore Presbyterian Church Giving Information*

Throughout the Bible the giving of tithes and offerings has always been seen as a part of the believer's worship to God. Apart from other charitable giving it's important for Christians to help financially sustain the ministry of the local church they are a part of. If you wish to become a regular giver at Shore Presbyterian, please see our Treasurer Cathy Tasker who can provide you with a number so that you can receive a tax receipt at the end of the financial year. There are two ways to give: you can place your offering in the box in the entrance. If you wish to receive a tax receipt at the end of the year you can put the offering in an envelope with your number on it. You can also give online through automatic deposit. The Shore Presbyterian Church bank account number is 12-3059-0631003-00. Make sure you record your number with the deposit.

If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Peter Boyd (021 0367 957 or [petethepastor@shorepres.org.nz](mailto:petethepastor@shorepres.org.nz)) or with our church Treasurer Cathy Tasker ([cathytasker@gmail.com](mailto:cathytasker@gmail.com)).

## **Some of the basic commitments of Shore Pres for your interest** (more available on the website: [shorepres.org.nz](http://shorepres.org.nz))

**We want to be a community of grace.** The Church has not always represented Jesus well; sometimes it has been harsh and hurtful. Often people are struggling with great hurts in life as well as great questions and doubts. We desire to be a community that provides acceptance and allows for time to heal and room to work through doubts and fears as we all learn together from the grace and wisdom that Jesus offers.

**We want to love and to serve.** One of the great joys of being a Christian is in knowing how much Jesus, who is God, has loved and served us. So in response we seek to love and serve others, both within the Christian community and into the community in which we live. We hope that the warmth of our Sunday meetings expresses something of that Jesus kind of love.

**We want to worship.** We are committed to meeting to worship God for His glory and grace and that our gathered worship is the high point of our lives. We also believe that worship extends to every part of our lives and our daily pursuits and that we serve and honour Him in all that we do. We are committed to corporate worship that embraces and respects those who may not yet believe. For that reason we try to practice a worship that is orderly and understandable; and that does not demand any more involvement than a visitor is willing or able to give.

**We want to be missional.** That is to say we, don't believe we exist as Christians for our own sake. Rather Christ has commanded and modelled for us a way of life marked by neighbour love. We are to do good in the world and to care for our culture and our communities. We are to serve Him where we worship, where we work, where we study, where we live, even where we play. We also believe that the Good News of sins forgiven and everlasting life through the death and resurrection of Jesus is the message that everyone needs to hear.

**We believe the Bible.** That is to say, we believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that that is where God speaks authoritatively. The Bible is the place to find answers to the great questions of life. So the Bible takes central place in our worship, our gatherings and in our lives.

**We believe the Gospel.** We believe the Good News that Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again to bring us into an eternal relationship with God through the forgiveness of sins.

**We believe in Jesus.** We believe that the man Jesus was born of a virgin and is the Son of God, that He lived a fully obedient life and gave His life as a substitute on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins so that we could be forgiven, declared righteous in Him and live forever with Him in a new heaven and a new earth. We believe He rose from the dead and reigns now and will come again in victory.

**We are Confessional.** We also hold to a statement of beliefs called the Westminster Confession of Faith. It is secondary to the Bible but helpfully sets out in ordered form what we believe the Bible teaches on important doctrines. Elders and pastors vow commitment to that confession at their ordination.

**We are Presbyterian.** This relates particularly to our form of government. Local church is led by elders who conform to biblical standards for leadership and are elected by the congregation who desire their spiritual care and oversight. Elders from a number of local churches also serve in regional bodies called Presbytery, which also provides wider wisdom and help to the local congregations. The Church leadership also meets once a year in a national assembly to consult on matters of importance to the whole church.

**We are Reformed.** Our doctrinal standards reflect something of the theology of the Reformation in Europe and Great Britain which revived a number of key biblical commitments: Scripture alone, salvation through faith alone, by grace alone, through Christ alone for the glory of God alone. The Reformed faith has a strong sense of the sovereignty of God over the world, its people and its history, and calls for us to submit to His sovereignty in our own lives. This we gladly do since we believe the biblical view is the only one that makes sense of reality.

**We are Complementarian.** We take seriously what the Bible teaches about the creation of men and women, that they equally bear the image and likeness of God and are equal in dignity and worth. We also believe the Bible teaches unique roles for men and women which are not about status but about finding fulfilment in serving God in the ways He has designed.

**We are Covenantal.** We believe that God in Christ makes a commitment to His people which the Bible calls a covenant. It expresses His abiding faithfulness to His promises and calls us also to our responsibility in the covenant arrangement to be obedient and faithful. In particular the Bible teaches that God makes a commitment to Christian families which give great spiritual privileges to the children and remind them that they have great responsibility to walk in the faith of their parents which is their spiritual inheritance, and that to rebel brings greater judgement. We believe that children should receive the blessing of baptism because of the position they have before God.

***User warning:** It's a little risky to state right up front what we believe. Such things can be open to misunderstanding or simply viewed as arrogant. Nevertheless not stating them is just as problematical since it leaves people in the dark about what we are committed to. And the bottom line is that for the church to be the church it is significantly committed to something. That being said, please recognise that these are simple statements for ease of reading. They cannot answer all the questions they may create. Those discussions are left to other opportunities – like visiting with us to hear more or by contacting Peter our pastor to discuss them.*



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