



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY 13th OF DECEMBER 2020

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.

Call to Worship Psalm 98:1-4¹

¹ Oh sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

² The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Prayer of adoration, confession and approach

Songs of Adoration² & Praise *Arise My Soul Arise*

Author: Charles Wesley

Arise my soul arise
Shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice,
In my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

He ever lives above,
For me to intercede;
His all redeeming love,
His precious blood, to plead;

His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

*Arise, arise, arise,
Arise, my soul, arise.*

¹ All passages of Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.

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

*Arise, arise, arise,
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise*

My God is reconciled;
His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child;
I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

*Arise, arise, arise,
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise, arise, arise,
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise*

As the deer

Martin J. Nystrom, 1981

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

I want you more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye.

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though you are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything.

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

Reception into membership

We rejoice today in God's grace in Christ as we receive Miriam Burden into the membership of Shore Pres.

Miriam's Personal Testimony

Membership vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope except for His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Saviour of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavour to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and commit yourself to the purity and peace of the Church?

Congregational vow

Do you as a congregation receive Miriam Burden in Christian love, and promise, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen and encourage her in her faith, and to live out your union with her in the peace of Christ?

Answer: We do

Prayer and welcome by the elders

Farewell to the Taskers

May the Lord bless and keep Malcolm, Cathy and Thomas as they move to Palmerston North. Thank you for all that you have done among us as you have sought to serve the Saviour.

Pastoral Prayer

This will normally include opportunity for you to share things you are thankful for or want to ask God for. Though the Pastor is the one who prays aloud we can all pray together and express in our hearts the things that we want to bring to a gracious God. In this way too we practise love and care for one another.

Song of preparation for hearing God's Word

When Peace like a River

Author: Horatio Spafford

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well (It is well)

With my soul (With my soul)

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well (It is well)

With my soul (With my soul)

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

My sin, Oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Oh my soul!

It is well (It is well)

With my soul (With my soul)

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well (It is well)

With my soul (With my soul)

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:1-25 (Church Bible p855)

Dedication of offering and prayer for children

Giving to the Lord is a free will offering from the hearts of those who believe in Jesus for salvation. No one will be asked to give; this is simply between you and the Lord. That is why we have a box by the door. Please see endnote (p11) for further information about the offering.

Message Luke 1:1-25 “Grace Comes Down”

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

INTRODUCTION

I. TRUE TRUTH

A. AN EXCELLENT HISTORIAN

B. TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

II. CHRISTIANITY IS NOT RELIGION

III. GRACE TO PERSONAL BROKENNESS

IV. GRACE TO COSMIC BROKENNESS

V. THE PRIORITY OF FAITH

CONCLUSION

Closing Song There is a hope

Stuart Townend

There is a hope that burns within my heart,
That gives me strength for every passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part,
Yet drives all doubt away:

I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;
And Christ in me, the hope of heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy,
To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Saviour there!

Through present sufferings, future's fear,
He whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms,
And they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine
When I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,
And every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
For I am truly home.

BENEDICTION³

³ Benediction: literally, "good word" or "speak well"; a verbal blessing pronounced in God's name by the Pastor, at the conclusion of the service, sending us forth from this special time as we continue our lives seeking to know and follow Jesus.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading Luke 1:1-25

1. What stands out in Luke's introduction in Luke 1:1-4? What does it give you certainty about? How might this be helpful to your non-Christian seeker friend?
2. How is it helpful that in verses 5-25 Luke doesn't avoid the supernatural, the extraordinary and the unexpected?
3. How does this passage and the subsequent ones about the announcement to Mary and the birth of Jesus confirm that Christianity is not religion? Not us climbing up but grace coming down and breaking in?
4. How significant for the world is the birth of John the Baptist? What does it remind us about God?
5. What do we learn from the grace shown by God in the personal brokenness of Zechariah and Elizabeth? What does it say to our world and to our griefs and trials?
6. What do we learn from Zechariah's unbelief? How was it different from Mary's? How does God deal with Zechariah in gracious discipline? What do we learn about faith in this world and God's own purposes in our lives?

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) or with our church Treasurer Cathy Tasker (cathytasker@gmail.com).

NOTICES

Encouragement Groups

Glenfield

When Every Tuesday, 7:30–9:00 pm
Where **Check with the contact person!**
Contact Tom Wilson 027 785 1332

Torbay/Browns Bay

When Every Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm,
Where **Check with the contact person!**
Contact Paul Burton 473 0086 or 021 253 0980

Lord's Supper and Fellowship Meal

When 1st Sunday of the month, next: 3rd of January

Prayer Meeting

When 7:15, 10th of February (2nd and 4th Wed of the month)
Where Boyd's place, 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 From 6:30 pm, 11th of February (monthly 2nd Thursday)
BBQ, Bible and Brews at Boyds
Where Boyd's place, 15 Summit Drive, Torbay
Contact Pastor Pete 021 0367 957 or Steve 022 647 0931

Christmas Invite

Paul and Ingrid are inviting anyone that does not have a place to go to join them on Christmas Day at their home for a shared Christmas lunch. They will put some meat on the BBQ, and would only ask you bring some food to share to go with it. This is a special day for Christians so what better than to spend it with church family celebrating the true meaning of Christmas together. If the people who want to come, can they let them know by the 18th December or before that would be great.

Summer Services

25th of December	9:30 am - <i>Christmas Worship</i> – Peter Boyd Preaching
27th of December	Peter Boyd Preaching
3rd of January	Ian Grant Preaching - Isaiah 1:1-2:5
10th of January	Ian Grant Preaching – Isaiah 40:1-31
17th of January	Ian Grant Preaching – Isaiah 42:1-17
24th of January	Peter Boyd Preaching

Ride4Freedom Finished

Big congratulations to Joao and Tania Petreceli for their mammoth effort in finishing the Ride 4 Freedom bike ride this week, cycling 2,700 kilometres and raising \$92,000 USD for the school project in Nepal. The foundations are already being laid for this school to serve girls being saved from slavery.

Another Congratulations

Big congratulations also to Mr and Mrs Justin and Debbie Port who were married yesterday. May the Lord pour out His grace and blessing on the adventure of marriage ahead of you.

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 20th 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	Amy Munroe and Mia Pang	Dennis	Dennis, Daniel Pang & Steve Bilton	Dennis, Daniel, Steve & 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) or with our church Treasurer Cathy Tasker (cathytasker@gmail.com).

Some of the basic commitments of Shore Pres for your interest (more available on the website: 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.*



PASTOR PETER BOYD

Office 473 9390 **Mobile** 021 0367 957

Email petethepastor@shorepres.org.nz

PO Box 89076 Torbay Auckland 0742

shorepres.org.nz

www.facebook.com/shorepres