



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY 25TH OF SEPTEMBER 2022

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.

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 Psalms 102:25-27¹

²⁵ Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,
²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Prayer of adoration, confession and thankfulness

Songs of Adoration² & Praise *Cornerstone*

Authors: Edward Mote, Reuben Morgan

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name (**REPEAT**)

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide his face
I rest on his unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless stand before the throne.

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.

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

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

Abide With Me

Author: Henry F. Lyte, 1847

Abide with me!
Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens.
Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail,
And comforts flee,
Help of the helpless,
O abide with me!

Swift to its close
Ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim,
Its glories pass away;
Change and decay
In all around I see;
O Thou who changest not,
Abide with me!

Thou on my head
In early youth didst smile;
And though rebellious
And perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me,
Oft as I left Thee,
On to the close,
O Lord, abide with me!

I need Thy presence
Every passing hour.
What but Thy grace
Can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself
My guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine,
O abide with me!

I fear no foe
With Thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight,
And tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still,
If Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross
Before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom,
And point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks,
And earth's vain shadows flee:
In life, in death,
O Lord, abide with me!

Confessing our Faith *The Apostle's Creed*³

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 The third day he rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven and is seated
 at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic⁴ church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

³ The Apostle's Creed represents the earliest and most widespread expression of faith among Christians throughout the history of the Church.

⁴ The term "catholic" here means "worldwide" and "universal" in regards to the church and is not referring to any particular denomination.

Sacrament of Infant Baptism

We rejoice to receive and recognise Chris and Raquel Burton's son Paul Andrew (PJ) as an infant member⁵ of the church of Jesus Christ as he is given the sign and seal of baptism.

Scripture Readings for Baptism

Genesis 17:7

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Acts 2:38, 39

³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

⁵ Technically, an infant member is a "non-communing" member, which means that an infant of believing parents is viewed as a member of the covenant community, with all the Gospel blessings and privileges of that membership, but they do not yet participate in the Lord's Supper (communion), until they profess their own personal age-appropriate faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Baptismal vows

1. Do you heartily believe God's covenant promise to be your God and the God of your children, and thus present PJ for holy baptism as a sign and a seal that he belongs to the covenant family of God?

Answer: *We do*

2. Knowing that you are saved through faith in Christ, not through anything you have done or ever will do, but simply through your faith in Christ's finished work on Calvary's cross – will you encourage PJ as soon as he is able to comprehend its significance to acknowledge personally his own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to become a full member of the Church, serving God faithfully in its fellowship?

Answer: *With God's help we will*

3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate PJ to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace to raise him in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to pray for and with him, to teach him the truth of God's Word, to keep him in the house of God and with God's people, and to be faithful in your home life for Christ as you live it before him so that by God's grace he will personally and always love, serve and follow Him?

Answer: *With God's help we do*

Congregational vow

Do you receive Paul Andrew (PJ) Burton as an infant member of this church, and promise to surround him with Christian love, to pray for him and to set an example before him of genuine Christian faith and virtue, so that he will early in life know the reality of personal salvation and rich fellowship in the kingdom of God?

Answer: *With God's help we do*

Baptism and Prayer

Song of Blessing *The Aaronic Blessing (from Numbers 6:24-26)*

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Song of Praise *How Great Is Our God*

Author: Chris Tomlin

The splendour of the King, clothed in majesty,
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at his voice, trembles at his voice.

*How great is our God, sing with me,
How great is our God, all will see,
How great, how great is our God.*

Age to age he stands, and time is in his hands,
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
The Godhead, three in one: Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

*How great is our God, sing with me,
How great is our God, all will see,
How great, how great is our God.*

Name above all names,
Worthy of all praise,
My heart will sing
How great is our God.

*How great is our God, sing with me,
How great is our God, all will see,
How great, how great is our God.*

Farewell to Amy

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.

Scripture Reading Genesis 15 (Church Bible p10)

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 Genesis 15 *“Grace on Glorious Display”*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

INTRODUCTION

- I. UNDERSTANDING COVENANTS**

- II. A DRAMA OF GRACE**

- III. THE NECESSARY NEW COVENANT**

- IV. BAPTISM AS A SIGN AND SEAL**

- V. PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY**
 - a. For Parents**
 - i. Privilege**
 - ii. Responsibility**

 - b. For Children**
 - i. Privilege**

ii. Responsibility

CONCLUSION – WE ALL NEED TO BE BAPTISED

Closing Song God and God Alone

Words and Music by Phill McHugh Copyright 1984 River Oaks Music Co. (BMI)

God and God alone

Created all these things we call our own

From the mighty to the small

The Glory in them all

Is God's and God's alone

God and God alone

Reveals the truth of all we call unknown

All the best and worst of man

Won't change the Master's plan

It's God's and God's alone

God and God alone

Is fit to take the universe's throne

Let everything that lives

Reserve its truest praise

For God and God alone

God and God alone

Will be the joy of our eternal home

He will be our one desire

Our hearts will never tire

Of God and God alone.

BENEDICTION⁶

⁶ 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 Genesis 15 (esp. verses 7-12, 17-18)

1. Thinking about universal grief over the passing of Queen Elizabeth the 2nd. What does it say about the human hearts need for certainty, stability and continuity. How does God answer that need and how is it displayed in covenant?
2. What is the grace that stands out in the passage above and how is it breathtakingly fulfilled in Christ? How does baptism now point to the same grace?
3. R. C Sproul says, that, “the promises of God to His beloved people in Jesus Christ are on brilliant display when the sacrament of baptism is administered.” How do you see that and experience His challenges and encouragements anew when you witness baptism?
4. What is infant baptism saying about the children? How is this a help and encouragement to parents? What are their responsibilities?
5. What does it mean to say that we all need to be baptized? What do we learn from infant baptism about the way we are to come to Christ, even every day?
6. (Optional) Think about the vow we as a congregation make at an infant baptism. Regardless of you view on infant baptism itself, do you think this a worthy commitment? Discuss how we might improve upon our commitment to the little ones and their parents.

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 Miriam Burden 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.

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, 7:00-9:00 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: 2nd of October, ***next Sunday***

Men's Ministry

Due to Pastor Pete's coming departure from Shore Pres this ministry will be in recess until further notice.

Prayer Meeting

When 7:15, 28th of September (4th Wed of the month), ***this week***
Where Boyd's home, 15 Summit Drive, Torbay

Annual General Meeting

We will be having our AGM straight after worship, Sunday the 2nd of October

Guest Lecturer at GTC

Dr Greg Goswell is Academic Dean and Lecturer in Old Testament at Christ College Sydney. He will speak on "*New Tools for Interpreting the Bible*" at Grace College, 75 Rogers Road Manurewa, Wednesday 28 Sep, 7-9 pm.

Praise the Lord for His Provision

If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Peter Boyd (021 0367 957 or petethepastor@shorepres.org.nz) or with our Church Treasurer Miriam Burden (imaburden2@gmail.com).

The Lord has been good indeed. Russell Thomas has accepted the call to Pastor here at Shore Pres and he and Sarah and family are due to arrive in New Zealand on the 7th of December.

Bye Bye Bike Ride

We will be having a day bike trip as a fun way of spending time with Pete and Janet before they go. Peter and Janet love bike riding, so what better way to spend time with them. The Ride is about 48kms. It is a flat ride for most of the time so you don't have to be super fit to attend!

When: Saturday October 1st

Where: Waihi to Paeroa and back.

What to bring:

A mountain Bike (as we will be on gravel and mud)

Head lamp or bike torch for the tunnel.

Spare clothes (in case you get rained on), some snacks.

If you need help sorting out a ride, contact Chris Burton on 0223454131 or chris@burtonfamily.co.nz

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 2nd of October – Fellowship Lunch

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	Dorette Knoeson and Lydia Song	Dennis	Dennis and Song Family	Dennis, Song Family and Volunteers	Volunteers

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.*



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