



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
19TH of March, 2023

The Lord's Day

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 evening. We hope you find the time to be both encouraging and thought provoking. Please join us after the service for coffee, tea and snacks.

A Note about Children in Worship

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 19:14). It might be a bit uncommon for children to be in worship for the duration of the service in the broader church today, but we are glad for them to be present. There is little of greater importance than learning to worship our God. Our children learn to worship, not by being absent from worship, but by being in worship. It could be stretching or uncomfortable at times for the congregation, or especially parents of squirming children. But we want to keep the big picture in view, and as a congregation, support and pray for God's Word to take deep root in the hearts of our children, and by His Spirit, produce fruit for His glory. We do not want to tolerate them, or merely keep our children quiet, but help them see and savour Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship *Revelation 19:1-2,5¹*

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
for his judgments are true and just.
Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great.

Confession of Sin *Hebrews 3:12*

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Assurance of Grace *Hebrews 10:19,22-23*

Brothers and sisters, have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Songs of Adoration² & Praise

He Will Hold Me Fast

Authors: Ada Habershon / Matthew Merker

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

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.

(Chorus)

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast

He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

(Chorus)

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast

Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
'Til our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!

(Chorus) (2x)

Satisfied

Author: Clara T. Wilson

All my life long I had panted
For a drink from some cool spring,
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within.

Feeding on the filth around me,
Till my strength was almost gone,
Longed my soul for something better,
Only still to hunger on.

(Refrain)
Hallelujah! He has found me!
The one my soul so long had craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings,
Through his blood I now am saved.

Poor I was, and sought for riches,
Something that would satisfy,
But the dust I gathered round me
Only mocked my soul's sad cry.

(Refrain)

Well of water, ever springing,
Bread of life so rich and free,
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me.

(Refrain)

Confession of Faith *New City Catechism Q & A 29,35³*

Q29. How can we be saved?

- A. Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in Him.

³ The New City Catechism is a modern Reformed catechism formed from the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism.

Q35. Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

A. All the gifts we receive from Christ we receive through the Holy Spirit, including faith itself.

Dedication of offering and prayer for children ⁴

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 for further information about the offering.

Scripture Reading *Ezekiel 36:22-36* (*Church Bible p.724*)

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

My Worth is Not in What I Own

Authors: Keith and Kristyn Getty & Graham Kendrick

My worth is not in what I own
My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross

My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose, in pride or shame

4 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.

If you have any questions, please talk with an elder or with our Church Treasurer Miriam Burden (imaburden2@gmail.com).

But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross

(Chorus)

I rejoice in my redeemer
Greatest treasure
Wellspring of my soul
And I will trust in him, no other
My soul is satisfied in him alone

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us
At the cross
I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross

(Chorus)

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed, my ransom paid
At the cross

(Chorus) (2x)

Scripture Reading John 2:23-3:21 (Church Bible p.887)

Prayer of Illumination

Message John 2:23-3:21 *“Back to Basics”*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Intro:

The dilution of the gospel

Body:

Kingdom Requirements

Being born of the Spirit

Believe in the only Son of God

Divine love

The ultimate act of love

The consequences of rebellion

Conclusion

We must be born again to enter into the Kingdom of God, and that can only happen through the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Song of Response

You're the Word of God the Father (Across the Lands)

Authors: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

You're the Word of God the Father,
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice:
Let the skies declare Your glory,
Let the land and seas rejoice!

You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man;
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands.

Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.

With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You stilled the sea.
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free.

With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting victory from the grave,
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in Your wake.
Now You stand before the Father
Interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home

BENEDICTION⁵ *2 Corinthians 13:14*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading John 2:23-3:21

1. What are some problems with modern evangelical church's preaching of the gospel? Is this an important issue? Why or why not?
2. What was the main issue holding back Nicodemus from salvation?
3. How are we born of water and spirit?
4. The analogies Jesus uses are all comparisons of flesh and spirit, why does he do this, and why is it important for us today?
5. What can you do to help spread the gospel in your life?

NOTICES

Encouragement Groups

Glenfield

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

⁵ 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.

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 April

Prayer Meeting – Sundays, 10am

While we are away from Long Bay Primary, the church is invited to pray together at the Thomas family’s home. If you need the address, ask Pastor Russell.

Worship Next Sunday, March 26th @ Graceway Baptist

Please note that we will return to our “normal” worship time and location for this period while we are away from Long Bay Primary—Graceway Baptist Church at 4pm.

Church Picnic—March 25th @ 11 at Long Bay Beach

We will fellowship, enjoy good weather and food together on Saturday, March 25th at 11:00 at Long Bay Regional Park. Please bring your own food & beverage. This is a great opportunity to invite friends who are outside of the church community. Look for an email on Friday or Saturday morning regarding exact meeting location inside the park.

Combined Good Friday Worship—10am at Northcross Church, 7th of April

This will be a combined worship service with other church from the Northern Bays. Tea, coffee, and hot cross buns will be provided after the service. The address is 826a East Coast Road, Oteha.

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 26th of March

SHORE KID’S LEADER	CRECHE	KITCHEN & MORNING TEA	OPEN UP & FIRE WARDE N	HALL SET-UP	HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP	SUPERVISE PLAY GROUND
TBA	Volunteer	Karen V. Bemmelen & Dorette Knoeson	Dennis	Dennis & Thomas Family	Dennis, Thomas Family and Volunteers	N/A

**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 Russell our pastor to discuss them.*



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