



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
26TH of March, 2023

The Lord's Day

Baptismal Service

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 *Deuteronomy 10:14,21¹*

Behold, the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. (21) He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.

Confession of Sin *Deuteronomy 10:12-13,16*

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD which I am commanding you today for your good? (16) Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

Assurance of Grace *Ezekiel 36:26-27*

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Songs of Adoration² & Praise

This is My Father's World

Author: Maltbie B. Babcock

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.

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.

This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass, I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Author: Robert Robinson

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by Thy great help I've come

And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless days

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Here's my heart
Oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Confession of Faith *Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 72,73³*

Q72. Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sin?

A. No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

Q73. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the water of rebirth and the washing away of sins?

³ The Heidelberg Catechism is a trusted Reformed catechism written in 1563 as a teaching tool for young people. It is known for its warm-hearted and personal tone.

- A. To begin with, he wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ take away our sins just as the water removes dirt from the body. But more importantly, he wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that we are truly washed of our sins spiritually as your bodies are washed with water physically.

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 *Romans 4:1-12* (*Church Bible p.941*)

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 15,17:1-14* (*Church Bible p.10-12*)

Prayer of Illumination

Message *Genesis 15,17:1-14* *“Great Kindness in Reassurance”*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Big Idea: We serve a KIND God who graciously reassures us of his saving, covenant love, with baptism, a sign and seal, for us and our children.

1. Saving, Covenant Love

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).

2. Kindness toward Abraham through assurance
 1. The direction of the sign (God pledges to us, not us to Him)
 2. His kindness toward us (continuity between Old & New Testaments)
 3. Baptism is a sign and seal
3. For our children

Profession of Faith and Membership

- Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
- 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?
- Do you now 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?
- Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
- Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Baptism

Vows of the parents

- Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you claim God's covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
- Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavour to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Vow of the congregation

- Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Song of Response

Blessed Assurance

Author: Fanny Crosby

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

(Refrain)

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

(Refrain)

BENEDICTION⁵ *Psalm 103:17-18*

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

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.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading Genesis 15,17:1-14

1. Can you identify with Abraham when he asked, “how am I to know?” (Have you even desired a sign from the Lord?) What does the Lord’s response display about his heart toward his children?
2. How else do we see the Lord using signs in Scripture to reassure his people of his covenant promises?
3. What is baptism according to the Scriptures? What passages do you use to support your answer?
4. What are the promises that baptism assures us of?
5. What does it mean to “improve your baptism?” How are you seeking to improve yours?

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 April (next Sunday)

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. *We will not gather for this prayer time on Easter Sunday, April 9th.*

Worship at Graceway Baptist at 4pm

Our worship time and location for this period while we are away from Long Bay Primary will continue to be Graceway Baptist Church at 4pm. We are hopeful to return to Long Bay Primary as soon as possible.

Women’s Fellowship and Morning Tea—Saturday, 22nd of April, 9:30 until 11

This will be at the Goodenough’s home in Torbay. Contact Ingrid: 021 215 8171

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 2nd of April

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	Santos Family	Dennis	Dennis & Santos Family	Dennis, Santos 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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