



Welcome to Worship

Sunday,
5th of March, 2023

Lord's Supper Worship

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 a shared meal.

Call to Worship *Psalm 34:1,3,8*¹

[1] I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

[3] Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

[8] Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Prayer of Adoration, Confession, and Approach

Scripture Reading *Amos 9:11-15 (Church Bible p.771)*

Song of Adoration²

Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder

Authors: John Newton, Laura Taylor

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Saviour's name
He has hushed the Law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by his grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He presents us whole to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down

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.

For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He has washed us with his blood
He will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
You have washed us with your blood
You have washed us with your blood
You have washed us with your blood
You secured our way to God.

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 or Elder 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 I survey The Wondrous Cross

Author: Isaac Watts

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Dedication of offering and prayer for children ³

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 below for further information about the offering.

Scripture Reading John 2:1-11 (Church Bible p. 887)

Prayer of Illumination

Message John 2:1-11 *“The Good Wine”*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Trust Jesus. Abundant life is in his person and work, through His:

- Lordship over creation.
- Fulfilment of the Kingdom.
- Perfect cleansing.
- Role as bridegroom and the master of the feast.

³ ***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).

The Lord's Supper *Who is this for?* Jesus himself has appointed this means of remembering His death on the cross and the benefits that come to us. It is an opportunity to feed on Him by faith and to be strengthened as His followers. Therefore, it is appropriate that only those who are truly Christians should participate. That is, those who profess faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord, who are baptised into His church and who seek to live obedient lives. If this does not describe you, we encourage you not to take the bread or wine but to use the opportunity to consider the things you have heard in today's service and to consider the claims of Christ and what they mean for you. You may find some help in one of the prayers printed on page 11 If you have questions about these things, please contact one of the Elders.

Song of preparation for the Lord's Supper

There Is A Fountain

Author: William Cowper

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

*Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.*

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

*Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.*

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

*And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;*

*Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.*

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more.

*Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more.*

Profession of Faith *The Apostles Creed*⁴

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy catholic church; The communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer at the Lord's Table

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Closing Song

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.*

⁴ The Apostles' Creed dates to the time shortly after Jesus' apostles and expresses the core tenets of the faith, held and taught by Jesus' apostles.

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.*

You're the name above all names,
You are worthy of all praise,
And 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.*

Benediction⁵ (*Psalm 4:7 & John 17:3*)

May the joy of your heart surpass the joy given when grain and wine abound, by experience of eternal life, which is to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading John 2:1-11

- 1) What has been one of your best days? What made it so great? How did it fall short of perfection?
- 2) How was wine symbolic during Bible times? (Check out passages such as Amos 9:11-15, Jeremiah 31:12, Hosea 14:7) How does this shed light on our passage?
- 3) What are the implications from this passage concerning the Kingdom, and cleanliness?
- 4) What other Scripture passages give you hope on less than perfect days? How so?
- 5) What was the ultimate purpose of Jesus' signs? Why is unbelief so prevalent in our age?

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.

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, (*today.*) Next: April 2nd

Prayer Meeting – Sundays @ 10am

At the Thomas residence. This time will be on a trial basis while we are away from Long Bay Primary. Ask Pastor Russell if you need the address.

March 19th—Place / Time Change

Due to a prior booking at Graceway Baptist, our worship time / location will need to change for March 19th. Look for further details soon.

Thinking Matters Auckland Conference—August 2023

An Apologetics conference is coming to Auckland, Friday and Saturday, 18th & 19th of August. Early Bird pricing ends soon. Find out more and sign up at <https://conference.thinkingmatters.org.nz/locations/auckland>

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 12th of March

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	Santos Family	Dennis	Dennis, Santos Family	Same plus volunteers	Volunteers

Silent Prayers for use during the Lord's Supper

Prayer of uncertainty *God, I don't even know if you exist or if I'm just talking to myself. If you are real, please help me to come to know you. Open my heart and my mind to consider the truth claims of Jesus who is called the Christ. Help me to see both my need for you and how Jesus is the provision for that need. Give me the answers I need and dissolve any dishonest objections that I hold to your existence Amen.*

Prayer for those searching for truth *Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

Prayer of belief *Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Saviour. Amen.*

Prayer of commitment *Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.*

Prayer for those struggling with sin *Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfilment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.*

Prayer for the believer *Father, I come now to your table, to partake of Christ's body and blood in holy communion. I ask that you would search my heart and show me my failings and sins so that I may repent and turn to embrace your promises anew. Although I am unworthy, you have made me worthy. Though I am a sinner, you have taken away my sins by your very own body and blood. May you be glorified in our partaking of your sacrament. Amen.*

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 it 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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