



## Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,  
16<sup>th</sup> of April, 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**     *Isaiah 40:28 & Psalm 5:2*

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

Lift up your voice and cry out  
To your King and your God,  
And to Him offer your prayers.

*(Song) Turn Your Eyes*

*Authors: George Romanacce, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff, Nic Trout*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside  
Where justice and mercy embraced  
There the Son of God gave His life for us  
And our measureless debt was erased

*(CHORUS)*

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes  
Jesus, our glory and our prize  
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*

VERSE 3

Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the Lion awake  
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone  
For we carry His life in our veins

*(CHORUS)*

Turn your eyes to the heavens  
Our King will return for His own  
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,  
'All glory to Jesus alone!'

*CHORUS (2x)*

**Confession of Sin**      *Psalm 40:12–13*

[12] For evils have encompassed me  
    beyond number;  
my iniquities have overtaken me,  
    and I cannot see;  
they are more than the hairs of my head;  
    my heart fails me.

[13] Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me!  
    O LORD, make haste to help me!

**Assurance of Grace**      *Isaiah 40:1-2; 41:10,13,14*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
    and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
    that her iniquity is pardoned  
[10] fear not, for I am with you;  
    be not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
    I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

[13] For I, the LORD your God,  
    hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you, "Fear not,  
    I am the one who helps you."

[14] ... I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD;  
    your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

## **There is a Fountain**

*Author: William Cowper*

There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel'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 have I, though vile as he,  
Washed all my sins away:  
Washed all my sins away,  
Washed all my sins away;  
And there have I, though vile as he,  
Washed 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 pow'r,  
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.

**Prayer for our Children and Dedication of offering** <sup>1</sup>

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.

**Song of Adoration & Praise***Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Author: Keith and Kristyn Getty, Matt Papa, Matt Boswell

Come behold the wondrous mystery

In the dawning of the King

He, the theme of heaven's praises

Robed in frail humanity

In our longing, in our darkness

Now the Light of Life has come

Look to Christ, who condescended

Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery

He, the perfect Son of Man

In His living, in His suffering

Never trace nor stain of sin

See the true and better Adam

Come to save the hell-bound man

Christ the great and sure fulfillment

Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery

Christ, the Lord upon the tree

In the stead of ruined sinners

Hangs the Lamb in victory

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**1 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](mailto:imaburden2@gmail.com)).

See the price of our redemption  
See the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory  
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Slain by death, the God of life  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him  
Praise the Lord; He is alive  
What a foretaste of deliverance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when He comes

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### **Confession of Faith**

*Westminster Shorter Catechism 1*

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

### **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**    *John 3:22-36*                      (*Church Bible p.888*)

### **Prayer of Illumination**

## **Message** John 3:22-36 *“He Must Increase, but I Must Decrease”*

*Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions*

Because Jesus is above all we must pursue God-centeredness by:

- Recognizing His Identity
- Seeking His increase & our decrease
- Believing his testimony

... leading to a fulfilment of our joy.

### **Song of Response**

*Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

Authors: CityAlight

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to His  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley He will lead  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven  
The future sure, the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave



To this I hold, my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me  
With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me  
(repeat)

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

## **BENEDICTION<sup>2</sup>**      *Hebrews 13:20-21*

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **Encouragement Group Discussion Questions**

#### **Scripture Reading**      John 3:22-36

1. What or whom do you struggle with unhelpfully attaching your significance to? How have you seen manifestations of pride in your life lately?
2. What does it mean to be man-centered vs. God-centered? How would you justify God-centeredness biblically?
3. What are practical ways to pursue His increase, and your decrease in your life?
4. Some argue that the believer who gives Scripture ultimate authority, and believes it is true, because Scripture says this about itself, falls into circular reasoning. How would you respond?

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<sup>2</sup> 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:** first Sunday of every month; next—7<sup>th</sup> of May

### 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 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 9:30 until 11

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

### Serving Roster for next Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April

SHORE KID’S LEADER	CRECHE	KITCHEN & AFTERNOON 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 & 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.*



Pastor Russell Thomas

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