



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
14th of May, 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 52:9–10

[9] Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

[10] The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Prayer of Invocation¹

Confession of Sin

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Assurance of Grace

Isaiah 53:4–5

[4] Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

¹ An invocation is simply a prayer that calls upon God's presence, assistance, and blessing during worship.

Songs of Adoration and Praise

Blessed Assurance

Author: Fannie Crosby

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

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour, all the day long.*

Humble submission, joyful delight,
Visions of glory now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour, all the day long.*

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

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour, all the day long.*

Blessed Be Your Name

Author: Matt Redman

Blessed be your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be your name

Blessed be your name
When I'm found in the desert place

Though I walk through the wilderness

Blessed be your name

Every blessing you pour out

I'll turn back to praise

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be your glorious name

Blessed be your name

When the sun's shining down on me

When the world's all as it should be

Blessed be your name

Blessed be your name

On the road marked with suffering

Though there's pain in the offering

Blessed be your name

Every blessing you pour out

I'll turn back to praise

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be your glorious name

You give and take away

You give and take away

My heart will choose to say

Lord, blessed be your name (**REPEAT**)

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

*Blessed be your glorious name (**REPEAT**)*

Prayer for our Children and Dedication of Offering ²

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. Please see endnote for further information about the offering.

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 52:13-15 & 53:7-12 (Church Bible p.613)*

Song of Adoration and Praise

I Surrender All

Author: Judson W. Van de Venter

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
In his presence daily live.

*I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Saviour, wholly Thine;
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me,
May I know Thy pow'r divine.

*I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

*I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour
I surrender all.*

2 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).

Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q25

Q. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

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 *Acts 6:1-7* (*Church Bible p.914*)

Prayer of Illumination

Message *Acts 6:1-7* *“Serving and Strengthening the Church”*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Disunity and Distraction: Threats then (Acts 6), and threats now.

Big Idea - As the True Servant, Jesus strengthens and preserves unity in the church through appointed servants (deacons).

- What Deacons Do
 - Spot and Meet Tangible Needs
 - Protect and Promote Church Unity
 - Serve and Support the Ministry of the Elders
 - “Elders serve by leading; deacons lead by serving.” (*HB Charles Jr.*)
- What Deacons Must Be (1 Timothy 3:8-13)
 - Not necessarily men “able to get stuff done.”
 - Rather, models of the character expected of all Christians.
- Who Deacons Reflect – The True Servant
 - Israel’s failure; Christ’s prophesied success (Isaiah)
 - Luke 4:16-21
 - Mark 10:42-45
 - Christ’s ongoing diaconal ministry
- Establishing the Diaconate at Shore
 - Affirm who is already leading through serving
 - Grow the diaconate as the church grows

Song of Response

The Servant King

Author: Graham Kendrick

From Heaven, You came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
"Yet not My will but Yours", He said

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

BENEDICTION³

Created from John 13 & 2 Peter 3:14

May Jesus, our Servant King, wash not only your feet but also your head and your hands, that you may be clean and be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace on the day of judgment. And may you, having received the ultimate service from our Servant King, wash one another's feet.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-13

1. How do you see disunity and distraction as threats to the church today? What do you think are the other biggest threats?
2. How would you describe the difference between elders and deacons? (Based on what Scripture?)
3. What more important for deacons, being able to get stuff done, or having exemplary character? Why?
4. Read John 13:1-20 and Mark 10:42-45. How is Christ the "True Deacon"? What other passages help you understand Christ's work of service? How so?
5. Please pray for our church's leaders, and that the Lord would provide the right deacons.

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—4th of June

³ 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.

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 should be returning to Long Bay Primary at 10am within the next few weeks.

Music Ministry Interest

We are interested in bringing more singers and musicians into the fold to contribute toward our musical worship. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Oliver Burton at 0224309860 or oliver@burtonfamily.co.nz

Business & Faith Breakfast at GTC, Saturday, 27th May, 7:30-9:30

Grace Theological College is co-hosting a Business and Faith breakfast with the Business and Faith Network on Saturday 27 May in Auckland. The aim of this gathering is to support our church members in business by providing high quality content by professionals in this area. You can find out more at www.gtc.ac.nz/events-news

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 21st of May

SHORE KID'S LEADER	CRECHE	KITCHEN & SHARED DINNER	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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