



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
10th of September, 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 morning. 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 merely tolerate them, or merely keep our children quiet, but help them see and savour Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship

Isaiah 60:1, Psalm 63:2, 17:15

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Look upon the Lord in the sanctuary, beholding his power and glory.

(Congregational Response)

As for me, I shall behold his face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied with his likeness.

Prayer of Invocation¹

Confession of Sin

Isaiah 42:18–20

[18] Hear, you deaf,

and look, you blind, that you may see!

[19] Who is blind but my servant,

or deaf as my messenger whom I send?

Who is blind as my dedicated one,

or blind as the servant of the LORD?

[20] He sees many things, but does not observe them;

his ears are open, but he does not hear.

Assurance of Grace

Isaiah 42:16

And I will lead the blind

in a way that they do not know,

in paths that they have not known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,

the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,

and I do not forsake them.

Songs of Adoration and Praise

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

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

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
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.

Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus

Author: Robert Lowry

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Oh precious is the flow

*That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

For my pardon this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

Pastoral Prayer and Dedication of Offering ²

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.

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, which is why there is box by the door. Please see endnote for further information about the offering.

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).

Song of Adoration and Praise

The Lord is My Salvation

Authors: Keith and Kristyn Getty

The grace of God has reached for me
And pulled me from the raging sea
And I am safe on the solid ground
The Lord is my salvation

I will not fear when darkness falls
His strength will help me scale these walls
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun
The Lord is my salvation

Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid, and the victory won
The Lord is my salvation

My hope is hidden in the Lord
He fulfills each promise of His word
When winter fades, I know spring will come
The Lord is my salvation

Who is like the Lord our God?
Strong to save faithful in love
My debt is paid, and the victory won
The Lord is my salvation

Glory be to God, the Father
Glory be to God, the Son
Glory be to God, the Spirit
The Lord is our Salvation

Glory be to God, the Father
Glory be to God, the Son
Glory be to God, the Spirit
The Lord is our Salvation

Who is like the Lord our God?
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Kids' Message and Prayer for our Children

Scripture Reading *John 9:1-41* *(Church Bible p.895)*

Prayer of Illumination

Message Jn 9:1-41 "The Sight of the Blind & Blindness of the Sighted"
Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Big Idea – Jesus gives sight to those who recognize and own their blindness, and he blinds those who think they see without Him.

- All are born blind.
- Sight is given by Jesus at His initiative.
- Reactions to sight are mixed.
- "Sight" without Jesus is blindness.

Song of Response

Amazing Grace

Author: John Newton

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

BENEDICTION³ *Numbers 6:24–26*

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading *John 9:1-41*

1. How would you describe a biblical view of human suffering to a non-believer, in conjunction with this passage? (especially v.1-3)
2. What was the response of the man's parents? Why?
 - a. How do you struggle with the fear of man?
3. How would you assess the man's judgment of who God listens to in v.31-33? Why? Are there supporting verses you would point to?
4. How is blindness a prerequisite for sight, and how does "sight" (apart from Christ) only lead to blindness?

NOTICES

Encouragement Groups

Glenfield

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

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.

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 (next Sunday)

When: first Sunday of every month; next—1st of September.

Prayer Mtg – Sundays, Fortnightly @ 7pm

Our regular prayer time is now fortnightly on Sundays at the Goodenough's home in Torbay. Please ask Paul or Ingrid, or Pastor Russell if you need the address. The next three will be on the 17th of September, and 1st and 15th of October.

Covenant Reformation Conference—28th Oct., 2023 – Covenant Church, Manurewa

“Join us for the Covenant Reformation Conference 2023! We will explore one of the essential theological foundations of the Reformers: Covenantal Theology. Though covenantal theology wasn't explicitly spoken of in the Reformation, it was the foundation of their thinking. Dr. Ian Smith will help us think through God's work through covenants and how they inform the means of grace that we enjoy today.”

Additional Info: - 9:30-5:00

- With Dr. Ian Smith, Principal of Christ College, Sydney, Australia
- Morning tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea provided
- Free event, but donations accepted
- Registration and more info:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3DTqdlS2mdraw7x-ShOrna1ilpjExMWhpETHso4N-BUigkg/viewform>

“Not Home Yet” – Talk by Dr. Ian Smith—7:30, Wednesday, 20th of September

Dr. Ian Smith is the principal of Christ College, Sydney, where he also teaches Greek and New Testament. He has also served in parish ministry and as a missionary in the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu. He will be giving a talk based on his book, “Not Home Yet,” endorsed by Sinclair Ferguson, Bryan Chapell and many others. The talk will be given at **Graceway Baptist Church, 1092 East Coast Road.**

Here is a description of the talk:

Beginning with the creation of the heavens and earth and ending with the New Jerusalem, the storyline of Scripture reveals God's commitment to the physical world that he created. Our final destiny is not some disembodied, heavenly

existence but rather life with God on a renewed earth. How does this understanding of our future home affect our lives today? What role should Christians play in meeting physical needs? Are spiritual realities more significant than physical? This book will help us understand God's eternal vision for the renewal of this earth and discover purpose in all of our daily, real-world endeavours, such as work, the arts, social justice, ecology, medicine, and more.

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 17th of September

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	Grace Ng & Nikki Sartori	Dennis Van B	Dennis Van B & Burton 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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