



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
8th of October, 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 *1 Peter 1:3 & 2:9* *(Responsive)*

(Call): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(Response): He has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

Prayer of Invocation¹

Confession of Sin *Ephesians 2:1-3*

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Assurance of Grace *Ephesians 2:4–6*

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Songs of Adoration and Praise

His Mercy is More

Author: Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

As the Deer

Author: Marty Nystrom

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

*You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee*

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything

*You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee*

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye
*You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee*

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 25:6-9* *(Church Bible p.586)*

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.

Confession of Faith *Heidelberg Catechism 45³*

Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

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).

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.

Song of Preparation for Hearing God's Word

Show Us Christ

Authors: Bob Kauflin, Doug Plank

Prepare our hearts O God
Help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground
Help our unbelief
Plant Your Word down deep in us
'Cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear
Lead us in Your truth

Show us Christ show us Christ
O God reveal Your glory
Through the preaching of Your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Your Word is living light
Upon our darkened eyes
Guards us through temptations
Makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones
Freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul
Come speak to us today

Where else can we go Lord
Where else can we go
You have the words of eternal life
(REPEAT)

Kids' Message and Prayer for our Children

Scripture Reading *John 11:28-57* *(Church Bible p.898)*

Prayer of Illumination

Message John 11:28-57 *“How would you react if you were there?”*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Outline:

How would you react if you were there when Jesus wept? v28-37

Same, but different (32-33)

Jesus weeps (34-37)

How would you react when Lazarus came out? v38-44

Pushing theology into action (38-40)

An undeniable sign (41-44)

How would you react when the implications hit you? v45-57

The two options John gives us (45-48)

Implications for Jesus (49-54)

Implications for us (55-57)

Song of Response

And Can it Be

Author: Charles Wesley

And can it be that I should gain

An interest in the Saviour's blood?

Died He for me, who caused His pain,

For me, who him to death pursued?

Amazing love! how can it be

That Thou, my God, should die for me?

Amazing love! how can it be

That Thou, my God, should die for me!

He left his Father's throne above,

So free, so infinite his grace;

Emptied himself of all but love,

And bled for Adam's helpless race;

'Tis mercy all, immense and free;

For, O my God, it found out me.

*'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.
*My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
*Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

BENEDICTION⁴ *1 Corinthians 15:58*

May you be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading

John 11:28-57

1. Why do you think Jesus responds to the two sisters differently, and how might that inform how we relate to others?
2. Why does it matter that Jesus is truly man? (See Hebrews 2:14-18)
3. Have you experienced a time when, like Martha, Jesus pushed you to put what you confessed to be true in theory into practice?
4. Why does it matter that Jesus is truly God? (See Hebrews 9:24-28)
5. What hope can we draw from this passage for ourselves, our family and friends, our prayers, our faith, etc.?

⁴ 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—5th of November.

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 15th and 29th of October, and 12th of November.

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>

Women's Bible Study—Wednesday, 18th of October, 7:00pm, continuing fortnightly

Sarah will be starting a women's Bible study, taking a more in-depth, verse by verse look at the Gospel of John. This will be on somewhat of a trial basis. Please contact Sarah if you plan to attend so she has an idea of how many to expect. *If you are interested in hosting, please contact Russell or Sarah.*

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 15th of October

| SHORE KID'S LEADER | CRECHE | KITCHEN & TEA | OPEN UP & FIRE WARDEN | HALL SET-UP | HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP | SUPERVISE PLAY GROUND |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| TBA | Volunteer | Sarah Thomas & Nicki Sartori | Dennis Van B. | Justin Port & Russell Thomas | 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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