



Welcome to Worship

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

Call to Worship

John 8:12 & Luke 1:79

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He came to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide their feet into the way of peace. Whoever follows him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Invocation ¹

Song of Adoration & Praise

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Author: Charles Wesley

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,

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

Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Confession of Sin

Nehemiah 1:7

We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

Assurance of Grace

Colossians 1:21–22,19-20

[21] And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, [22] he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, [19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace

Songs of Assurance of Grace

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

Author: Horatius Bonar

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down,
Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream.

My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of Life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done.

Jesus What A Friend For Sinners

Author: J. Wilbur Chapman

Jesus, what a friend for sinners
Jesus, lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Saviour, makes me whole
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!
Hallelujah, what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus, what a strength in weakness
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and often failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!
Hallelujah, what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus, what a help in sorrow
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul.
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!
Hallelujah, what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end.

Jesus, I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find.
He has granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

Hallelujah, what a friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end. (REPEAT)

Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism 20

Q. Did God leave all mankind to die in sin and misery?

A. From all eternity and merely because it pleased Him God chose some to have everlasting life. These He freed from sin and misery by a covenant of grace and brought them to salvation by a redeemer.

Pastoral Prayer with Dedication of Offering

This will normally include opportunity for you to share things you are thankful for or want to ask God for. Although 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. Please see footnote for further information about the offering.²

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7 (Church Bible p.573)

Kids Message and Prayer for our children

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-80

(Church Bible p.856)

4 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).

Prayer of Illumination

Message *Luke 1:67-79* *“Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men”*
Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

The Lord guides his people into the way of peace (shalom, wholeness) by:

- Redeeming us & giving us salvation in the forgiveness of our sins
 - (Divine peace) (v.68,79)
- Giving us light, holiness, and righteousness
 - (intrapersonal peace) (v.74,79)
- Delivering us from our enemies
 - (interpersonal peace) (v.71,74)

Song of Response

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Author: Anonymous

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in Thy ways to go
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and sorrows cease
Fill all the world with heaven's peace
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

BENEDICTION³

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

Scripture Reading Luke 1:57-80 (the focus of the message was v.67-79)

1. What is the biblical concept of peace? How does go far beyond the world's conception?
2. What has the Lord saved his people from? What has He saved them to? How does this coincide with the biblical concept of peace?
3. How does the removal of fear, along with light, holiness, and righteousness give intrapersonal peace?
4. How does this passage show continuity in the covenant of grace which is fulfilled in Jesus Christ?
5. Where do you sense the need for greater peace (shalom) in your personal life? How so? (Trust God together in prayer for these things at the end of group time.)

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.

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 Shared Meal

When: next: 7th of January (first Sunday of every month)

Carols in the Park—17th of December, 7:00pm

This will take place at Albany Lakes Civic Park, and is led by Shore Baptist Church. This is a great way to aid your worship and anticipation of Christ during this Advent season.

Prayer Meeting—Fortnightly at the Goodenoughs, Sundays at 7:00pm (today)

Our regular prayer meeting is fortnightly at the Goodenoughs; the next one is the 10th of December. We will take a break over the holidays and resume in the new year.

Church Retreat—15-17th of March—Houghton’s Bush Camp, Muriwai

Praise God for the opportunity of a Church Retreat! Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for more details to come soon.

Women’s Bible Study—Wednesdays, 7:00pm, continuing fortnightly (this week)

Sarah is leading 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. The one is the 13th of December. The study will be resumed on the 10th of January.

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 17th of December

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	Sarah & Margie	Dennis	Dennis & Russell	Dennis, Russell, & 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.*



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