



## Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,  
17<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023

The Lord's Day

Ordination Service

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**

*Psalm 63:2-4*

Look upon the Lord in the sanctuary, beholding his power and glory. Because his steadfast love is better than life, let your lips praise him. Bless him as long as you live; in his name, lift up your hands.

## **Invocation <sup>1</sup>**

### **Song of Adoration & Praise**

#### *O Come All Ye Faithful*

*Author: John Francis Wade*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him;*  
*O come, let us adore him;*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"  
*O come, let us adore him;*  
*O come, let us adore him;*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing  
*O come, let us adore him;*  
*O come, let us adore him;*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

## **Confession of Sin**

*John 13:34*

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

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

## Assurance of Grace

*Romans 5:6–8*

[6] For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

[7] For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—[8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace

### Songs of Assurance of Grace

#### *O Holy Night*

*Author: Adolphe Adam*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend,  
He knows our need, to weakness is no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before him gladly bend!  
Behold your King! Before him gladly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another,  
His law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever,

His power and glory ever more proclaim!  
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

### **What Child Is This?**

*Author: William C. Dix*

What Child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The babe the son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading  
Nails spear shall pierce Him through  
The cross be borne for me for you  
Hail hail the Word made flesh  
The Babe the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant, king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise raise the song on high  
The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born  
The babe the son of Mary

### **Confession of Faith**

### *Westminster Shorter Catechism 21*

Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

## **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.<sup>2</sup>

**Scripture Reading**            *Psalm 136:1-16*            (*Church Bible p.520*)

## **Kids Message and Prayer for our children**

**Scripture Reading**            *1 John 4:9-11*            (*Church Bible p.1023*)

## **Prayer of Illumination**

**Message**            *1 John 4:9-11*            ***“Love’s Radical Redefinition”***

*Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions*

- He loved us, *first*.
  
- He sent his *only* Son.
  - o Into the world
  
  - o To be the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins
  
  - o That we might live through Him
  
- So, we *ought* to love one another.

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

## **Ordination and Installation of Elder, *Tom Wilson***

### *Vows for the Elder*

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the whole system of doctrine in the Confession of Faith of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any part of this system of doctrine, you will, on your initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavour by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

### *Vow for the Congregation*

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as an elder, and do you promise to yield him all that honour and encouragement in the Lord to which his office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles him?

### **Song of Response**

#### *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

*Author: George Matheson*

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be  
May richer, fuller be

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be  
May brighter, fairer be

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be  
That morn shall tearless be

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be

### **BENEDICTION<sup>3</sup>**

*2 Thessalonians 2:16–17*

[16] Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, [17] comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

### **Encouragement Group Discussion Questions**

**Scripture Reading**      1 John 4:9-11

1. What is the culture's current understanding of "love"? How do you see this?
2. How was the love of God made manifest among us?
3. What does the incarnation tell us about God's love? How do we see this in this passage? From other passages?
4. How do we practically go from receiving God's love to giving that love to others?
5. Who is hard for you to love right now? (Try to be vulnerable without gossip). How can you show them the love of Christ this Christmas? (Pray about this together.)

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<sup>3</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 Shared Meal

**When:** next: 7<sup>th</sup> of January (first Sunday of every month)

### Carols in the Park—17<sup>th</sup> of December, 7:00pm (today)

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. There will also be food trucks on site after 5:00.

### Prayer Meeting—Fortnightly at the Goodenoughs, Sundays at 7:00pm

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

### Church Retreat—15-17<sup>th</sup> of March—Houghton's Bush Camp, Muriwai

Praise God for the opportunity of a Church Retreat! *See details below.*

**When:** 4:30 Friday - 3:00 Sunday, 15th-17th of March

**Where:** Houghton's Bush Camp, Muriwai

**Retreat Focus:** Discipleship & Personal Ministry

**Cost & Payment:** \$80 / person. This includes food and lodging for the whole weekend.

You can make a payment for the retreat through bank transfer. Please designate family name and "retreat." See church bank details on p. 6.

(\*We never want money to be a hindrance, so please let one of the elders or deacons know if you or your family could use help from the church.)

\*Although we hope that everyone attends for the whole weekend, we realize this may not be possible for all. It will be possible to come for only part of the weekend, and payment details in this case can be arranged.

**Speaker:** Pastor Russell will serve as the main speaker for the weekend, seeking to unfold church vision for the next stage of Shore Pres. Others will likely contribute as well.

**Sign Up:** Please sign up by Sunday, 4th of February on the sign-up form at church. (The sooner you're able to sign up, the more helpful it will be for planning.)

**More details:** We hope that it will be a very fun time to help our church deepen in the Word, in fellowship, and in unity of vision. It is likely that a few friends of the Thomases from the States will visit to help prepare for, and serve at the retreat.

**Serving Opportunities:** Food, setup, after camp clean up, help with babies and kids. Please indicate on the sign-up form if there is an area you are interested to help with.

**Women’s Bible Study—Wednesdays, 7:00pm, continuing fortnightly**

Sarah is leading a women’s Bible study, taking a more in-depth, verse by verse look at the Gospel of John. The study will be resumed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Serving Roster for next Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> 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	Santos Family	Dennis	Santos Family	Dennis, Santos Family & 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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