



## Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,  
3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2023

The Lord's Day

Lord's Supper 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 5:7 & 130:5*

*(Responsive)*

*(Call):* Through the abundance of the Lord's steadfast love, enter his house and bow down before him.

*(Response):* I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.

## **Song of Adoration & Praise**

### *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Author: Joachim Neander

Praise to the Lord,  
The Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him,  
For he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
Now to his temple draw near;  
Praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,  
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under his wings,  
Yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
How all your longings have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,  
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely his goodness  
And mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do,  
If with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord,  
O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
Come now with praises before him.  
Let the "Amen,"  
Sound from his people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore him.

## **Confession of Sin**

*Titus 3:3*

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

## **Assurance of Grace**

*Titus 2:11–14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace**

### **Song of Assurance of Grace**

#### *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

In times of waiting, times of need  
When I know loss, when I am weak  
I know his grace will renew these days  
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

And when I reach the final day  
He will not leave me in the grave  
But I will rise, He will call me home  
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

The Lord is our salvation  
The Lord is our salvation

## **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>1</sup>

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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

**Scripture Reading**      *1 Samuel 2:1-10*      (*Church Bible p.225*)

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

**Scripture Reading**      *Luke 1:39-56*      (*Church Bible p.856*)

## **Prayer of Illumination**

**Message**      *Luke 1:46-56*      *“Hope for the Hungry & Humble”*

*Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions*

We are to have a **HOPE** that magnifies the Lord & rejoices in God our Savior because:

- He looks on and exalts those of humble estate (v.48,52)
- He scatters the proud & brings down the mighty (v.51-52)
- He remembers and is faithful to his covenant with Abraham. (v.54-55)

**The Lord’s Supper** *Who is this for?* Jesus himself has appointed this means of remembering His death on the cross and the benefits that come to us. It is an opportunity to feed on Him by faith and to be strengthened as His followers. Therefore, it is appropriate that only those who are truly Christians should participate. That is, those who profess faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord, who are baptised into His church and who seek to live obedient lives. If this does not describe you, we encourage you not to take the bread or wine but to use the opportunity to consider the things you have heard in today’s service and to consider the claims of Christ and what they mean for you. You may find some help in one of the prayers printed on page 11. If you have questions about these things, please contact one of the Elders.

**Institution of the Lord’s Supper**      *1 Corinthians 11:23-29*

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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)).

## **Confession of Faith**

## *Apostles Creed* <sup>2</sup>

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. <sup>3</sup>

The third day He arose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.

Amen.

## **Prayer at the Lord's Table**

### ***(Song of Reflection)***

*(While the elements are served use this song to reflect & quietly draw near to the Lord.)*

#### ***In Christ Alone***

*Authors: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend*

*In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,*

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<sup>2</sup> The Apostles' Creed dates to the time shortly after Jesus' apostles and expresses the core tenets of the faith, held and taught by Jesus' apostles.

<sup>3</sup> There is admittedly some confusion about this phrase in the creed. Calvin and other Reformers affirmed its place and usage. It's best understood to mean that Christ underwent not only a bodily death but experienced the fullness of God's wrath in order to appease and satisfy his justice. In this way he "descended into hell."

*When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

## **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

### **Song of Response**

#### *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Author: Charles Wesley

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.**



Joy to those who long to see Thee,  
Dayspring from on high appear;  
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He who's glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness,  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born with-in a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## **BENEDICTION<sup>4</sup>**

### *Ephesians 1:17–19b*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.

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<sup>4</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.

## Encouragement Group Discussion Questions

**Scripture Reading** Luke 1:46-56

1. What is hope? What is it significant? (also see 1 Tim 1:1)
2. Regarding biblical hope, how does looking backward give hope for the future?
3. What are the textual and thematic connections between Hannah's song (2 Sam. 2:1-10) and Mary's song (Luke 1:46-56)?
4. Why did Mary desire to "magnify the Lord" and "rejoice in God her Savior"? How can our attitude increasing become like Mary's?
5. What "help" and "mercy" were spoken to Abraham? How does this give us an unfailing hope today?

## 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 (Today)

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

### 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! Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for more details to come soon.

### 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. This will be on somewhat of a trial basis. The one is the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. The study will be resumed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Serving Roster for next Sunday the 10<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	Dorette & Ingrid	Dennis	Dennis & Paul G.	Dennis, Paul G., & Volunteers	N/A

**Silent Prayers for use during the Lord's Supper**

**Prayer of uncertainty** *God, I don't even know if you exist or if I'm just talking to myself. If you are real, please help me to come to know you. Open my heart and my mind to consider the truth claims of Jesus who is called the Christ. Help me to see both my need for you and how Jesus is the provision for that need. Give me the answers I need and dissolve any dishonest objections that I hold to your existence Amen.*

**Prayer for those searching for truth** *Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

**Prayer of belief** *Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Saviour. Amen.*

**Prayer of commitment** *Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.*

**Prayer for those struggling with sin** *Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfilment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.*

**Prayer for the believer** *Father, I come now to your table, to partake of Christ's body and blood in holy communion. I ask that you would search my heart and show me my failings and sins so that I may repent and turn to embrace your promises anew. Although I am unworthy, you have made me worthy. Though I am a sinner, you have taken away my sins by your very own body and blood. May you be glorified in our partaking of your sacrament. Amen.*



Pastor Russell Thomas

**Mobile** 022 412 3460

**Email** russellshorepres@gmail.com

PO Box 89076 Torbay Auckland 0742

**shorepres.org.nz**