



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
31st 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

Psalm 66:5,1-2

Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Invocation ¹

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,

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

Come now with praises before him.
Let the "Amen,"
Sound from his people again,
Gladly for aye we adore him.

Confession of Sin *1 John 1:8,10*

[8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Assurance of Grace *1 John 1:9*

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace

Song of Assurance of Grace

The Wondrous Cross

Author: Chris Tomlin

When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain, I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet?
Or thorns compose, so rich a crown

Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
All who gather here by grace, draw near and bless Your name

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
All who gather here by grace, draw near and bless Your name

Oh the wonderful Cross, oh the wonderful Cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live

Confession of Faith *Westminster Shorter Catechism 1*

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him 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.²

Song of Preparation for Hearing God's Word

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Author: Henry F. Lyte

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

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).

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Saviour, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
T'will but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.³

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:42-45

(Church Bible p.847)

³ Repine means to feel or express discontent.

Kids Message and Prayer for our children

Scripture Reading *1 Corinthians 9:1-26* (Church Bible p.956)

Prayer of Illumination

Message *1 Corinthians 9:1-26* “The Gospel > Me”

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Big Idea – Because of the penetrating, all-encompassing claim of the Gospel upon the believer, we are to live for the sake of the Gospel by:

- 1) Removing obstacles for others.
- 2) Living as a servant.
- 3) Exercising self-control & discipline in all things.

Song of Response

All Glory be to Christ

Author: Dustin Kensrue

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive

To you who boast tomorrow’s gain
Tell me, what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ!
All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ!

His will be done, His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him, the Lord of love

Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ
All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new

Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ!
All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ!

BENEDICTION⁴ *Psalm 91:14-16*

For those who hold fast to the Lord Most High in love, may he deliver you and protect you. When you call to him, may he answer you, be with you, rescue you, and honor you; and with long life may he satisfy you and show you his salvation.

Questions for Contemplation or Discussion

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 9:1-26

1. Paul concludes that the Gospel makes great claims upon the believer's life. Why?
2. Can you say, "Follow me, as I follow Christ?" In what ways would you be comfortable saying that? In what areas would you not be comfortable?
3. In what way, or for whom, is God calling you to live as a servant?
4. In what opportunities, or for whom, can you increasingly be "all things to all people that you might win some"?
5. How will you "run to receive the prize" in the new year?

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 or glenfieldgroup@shorepres.org.nz

Torbay/Browns Bay

When Every Thursday, 7:00-9:00 pm,
Where **17A Tainui St, Torbay**
Contact Paul Burton 473 0086 or 021 253 0980 or torbaygroup@shorepres.org.nz

Lord's Supper and Shared Meal (next Sunday)

When: next: 7th 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 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! *See details below.* Go to the sign-up link online to sign-up: <https://forms.gle/Ph1zjys4tyJi1jBc6>

When: 4:30 Friday - 3:00 Sunday, 15th-17th of March (We are allowed usage during this time. More specific times will be available soon.)

Where: Houghton's Bush Camp (75 Motutara Road, Muriwai Beach)

Retreat Focus: Discipleship & Personal Ministry

Cost & Payment: \$60/person. This includes food and lodging for the whole weekend. This is priced at a loss for the church. If you would like to give more to offset cost, please do so when making payment.

You can make a payment for the retreat through bank transfer. Please designate family name and "retreat." The Shore Presbyterian Church bank account number is 12-3059-0631003-00.

(*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. The day rate is \$30 / person.

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 Feb. 4, using the form at this link: <https://forms.gle/Ph1zjys4tyJi1iBc6> .
(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. Exact weekend schedule will be available closer to the date.

**Friends from outside our church body are also very welcome, so long as they generally understand and comply with the aim of the weekend.*

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

Accommodation: There are 86 beds in total, among 15 rooms, so there should be plenty of space. (Tent camping is available if you prefer.) We will do our best to place family members in one room together, especially young families.

Questions: Contact Pastor Russell: 0224123460 or russellshorepres@gmail.com

Bible Reading Plans for the New Year

Various Bible reading plans are available for the New Year on the welcome table. These are a very helpful tool to help us be in God's Word regularly.

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 10th of January.

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 7th of January

SHORE KID'S LEADER	CRECHE	KITCHEN & SHARED LUNCH	OPEN UP & FIRE WARDEN	HALL SET-UP	HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP	SUPERVISE PLAY GROUND
TBA	Volunteer	Debbie & Margie	Dennis	Dennis & Justin	Dennis, Justin, & 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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