



## Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,  
14<sup>th</sup> of January, 2024

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 1:14*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Invocation <sup>1</sup>

### Song of Adoration & Praise

#### *Across The Lands*

*Author: Keith Getty*

You're the Word of God the Father  
From before the world began  
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet  
Has been fashioned by Your hand  
All creation holds together  
By the power of Your voice  
Let the skies declare Your glory  
Let the land and seas rejoice  
*You're the author of creation  
You're the Lord of ev'ry man  
And Your cry of love rings out  
Across the lands*

Yet You left the gaze of angels  
Came to seek and save the lost  
And exchanged the joy of heaven  
For the anguish of a cross  
With a prayer You fed the hungry  
With a word You stilled the sea  
Yet how silently You suffered  
That the guilty may go free  
*You're the author of creation  
You're the Lord of ev'ry man  
And Your cry of love rings out  
Across the lands*

With a shout You rose victorious  
Wresting victory from the grave

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

And ascended into heaven  
Leading captives in Your wake  
Now You stand before the Father  
Interceding for Your own  
From each tribe and tongue and nation  
You are leading sinners home  
*You're the author of creation*  
*You're the Lord of ev'ry man*  
*And Your cry of love rings out*  
*Across the lands*

### **Confession of Sin**                      *(Corporate)*

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone.

### **Assurance of Grace**                      *Romans 8:1 & Isaiah 1:18*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are read like crimson, they shall become like wool.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace**

#### **Song of Thanksgiving for 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.

## **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>

## **Confession of Faith**

## *Westminster Shorter Catechism 2*

Q. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

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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)).

# Song of Preparation for Hearing God's Word

## *Christ our Hope in Life and Death*

*Authors: Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Keith Getty, Jordan Kauflin, Matthew Sherman Merker*

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to him belong  
Who holds our days within his hand?  
What comes, apart from his command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand

*(Chorus)*

*O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good  
Where is his grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh?  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ

*(Chorus)*

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
"Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore

*(Chorus) -2x*

*Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death*

**Scripture Reading**                      *Psalm 63*                      *(Church Bible p.479)*

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

**Scripture Reading**      *2 Corinthians 3:18—4:6*      *(Church Bible p.965)*

## **Prayer of Illumination**

**Message** 2 Cor. 3:18—4:6, *“Not Losing Heart by the Glorious Gospel”*  
*Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions*

The believer is kept from losing heart *in ministry* by:

1. A lifestyle consistent with the Gospel
2. The miracle of sight
3. Beholding the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

## **Song of Response**

*All I Have Is Christ*

*Author: Jordan Kauflin*

I once was lost in darkest night  
Yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that you would own  
A rebel to your will  
And if you had not loved me first  
I would refuse you still

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross  
And I beheld God’s love displayed

You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace  
*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ*  
*Hallelujah! Jesus is my life (REPEAT)*

Now, Lord, I would be yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow your commands  
Could never come from me  
Oh Father, use my ransomed life  
In any way you choose  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is you  
*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ*  
*Hallelujah! Jesus is my life (REPEAT)*

**BENEDICTION<sup>3</sup>** *1 Peter 5:10*  
May the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

**Questions for Contemplation or Discussion**

**Scripture Reading** *2 Corinthians 3:18-4:6*

1. Is your heart in ministry? (Being *personally* involved in others coming to know Christ, or grow in Christ). If not, why? What can you do to help your heart grow in that direction?
2. How are you tempted to lose heart in the ministry God has called you toward?
3. Where is it easier to have a "Gospel ethic?" Where is it more difficult?
4. Would you say you continue to marvel at the salvation given you in Christ? How so?
5. How can you grow in beholding God's glory?

**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](mailto:glenfieldgroup@shorepres.org.nz)

<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.



## 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](mailto:torbaygroup@shorepres.org.nz)

### Lord's Supper and Shared Meal

**When:** next: 4<sup>th</sup> of February (first Sunday of every month)

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

Our regular prayer meeting is fortnightly at the Goodenoughs home in Torbay. We will resume after the holidays.

### 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.* 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/Ph1zjys4tyJi1jBc6> . (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

**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. It meets at the Thomas home, and all women are invited. The next one is on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Serving Roster for next Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of January**

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	Dennis & Santos Family	Dennis, Santos, & 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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