



## Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,  
28<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 4:23-24*

*(Responsive)*

*(Call):* The hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

*(Response):* God is spirit, let us worship him in spirit and truth.

## Invocation <sup>1</sup>

### 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!

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

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**            *Psalm 115:2–8*

Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

**Assurance of Grace**            *Psalm 115:9–13*

O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace**

**Song of Thanksgiving for Grace**

*Your Love Oh Lord*

*Author: Third Day*

Your love, oh Lord  
Reaches to the heavens  
Your faithfulness stretches to the sky  
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains  
Your justice flows like the ocean's tide

*I will lift my voice*

*To worship you, my King*

*I will find my strength*

*In the shadow of your wings (REPEAT)*

Q. What is God?

A. God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

### **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>

### **Recognition and Prayer for New Members**

*(Johann and Gabi Petreceli)*

### **Song of Preparation for Hearing God's Word**

*Show Us Christ*

*Author: Sovereign Grace Music*

Prepare our hearts, O God  
Help us to receive  
Break the hard and stony ground  
Help our unbelief  
Plant Your Word down deep in us  
Cause it to bear fruit  
Open up our ears to hear  
Lead us in Your truth  
*Show us Christ, show us Christ  
O God, reveal Your glory*

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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)).

*Through the preaching of Your Word  
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord*

Your Word is living light  
Upon our darkened eyes  
Guards us through temptations  
Makes the simple wise  
Your Word is food for famished ones  
Freedom for the slave  
Riches for the needy soul  
Come speak to us today  
*Show us Christ, show us Christ  
O God, reveal Your glory  
Through the preaching of Your Word  
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord*

**BRIDGE**

*Where else can we go, Lord  
Where else can we go  
You have the words of eternal life  
Where else can we go, Lord  
Where else can we go  
You have the words of eternal life (repeat)  
Show us Christ, show us Christ  
O God, reveal Your glory  
Through the preaching of Your Word  
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord*

**Kids Message and Prayer for our children**

**Scripture Reading**      *Acts 17:16-34*      *(Church Bible p.926)*

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Message** “Freedom from Idolatry in Christ for Full & Satisfied Worship in God”  
*Acts 17:16-34*

*Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions*

*The Human Being and Worship:*

- All human beings have the need to fulfil their longing for worship.
- Only in the true God is the longing for worship satisfied.
- Jesus Christ is the only one who can lead us to God to worship him fully and contentedly.

**Song of Response**

*Satisfied*

*Author: Clara T. Wilson*

All my life long I had panted  
For a drink from some cool spring,  
That I hoped would quench the burning  
Of the thirst I felt within.

Feeding on the filth around me,  
Till my strength was almost gone,  
Longed my soul for something better,  
Only still to hunger on.

*Hallelujah! He has found me!  
The one my soul so long had craved!  
Jesus satisfies all my longings,  
Through his blood I now am saved.*

Poor I was, and sought for riches,  
Something that would satisfy,  
But the dust I gathered round me  
Only mocked my soul's sad cry.

*Hallelujah! He has found me!*

*The one my soul so long had craved!  
Jesus satisfies all my longings,  
Through his blood I now am saved.*

Well of water, ever springing,  
Bread of life so rich and free,  
Untold wealth that never faileth,  
My Redeemer is to me.

*Hallelujah! He has found me!  
The one my soul so long had craved!  
Jesus satisfies all my longings,  
Through his blood I now am saved.*

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

*Romans 15:13*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

### **Questions for Contemplation or Discussion**

#### **Scripture Reading**

*Acts 17:16-34*

1. Did you know that every human being was created with the need to worship?
2. How can this knowledge help in the task of evangelising?
3. Have you been sensitive to the despair of the idolatrous people around you? How?
4. How are helping your brother or sister in the faith against the struggles of sin that incessantly seek to lead them back to idolatry?

### **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)

##### **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)

<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.



### **Lord's Supper and Shared Meal (next week)**

**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. The next ones will be the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of February, and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.

### **Church Picnic – Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> after church at Long Bay**

Please mark your calendars for a church picnic at Long Bay. Everyone will be responsible to bring their own food and drink. More details to come.

### **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. \*Children under 5 are free.

**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](mailto: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 the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

**Serving Roster for next Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February**

SHORE KID’S LEADER	CRECHE	KITCHEN & AFTERNOON TEA	OPEN UP & FIRE WARDEN	HALL SET-UP	HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP	SUPERVIS E PLAY GROUND
TBA	Volunteer	Santos Family	Dennis	Dennis & Santos Family	Dennis, Santos Fam, Volunteers	N/A

**Some of the basic commitments of Shore Pres for your interest  
(more available on the website: [shorepres.org.nz](http://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 contacting pastor Russell to discuss them.*



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