



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
10th of March, 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. *However, since we realize that helping little ones in worship can be difficult, there is an additional room available for parents with little ones to use during the service as needed.*

Call to Worship

Hebrews 4:16

Let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Invocation ¹

Song of Adoration & Praise

Amazing Grace

Author: John Newton

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

Confession of Sin

John 13:34-35

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. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

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

Assurance of Grace

1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace

Song of Thanksgiving for Grace

Before The Throne of God Above

Authors: Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great high priest whose name is "Love,"
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me.
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,

With Christ, my Saviour and my God
With Christ, my Saviour and my God

I Cannot Tell

Author: William Young Fullerton

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,
should set His love upon the sons of men,
or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary
when Bethlehem's manger was His only home,
and that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,
as with His peace he graced this place of tears,
or how His heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
how He will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,
and He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
and some glad day His sun will shine in splendour
when He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when at His bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heaven and heaven to earth, will answer,
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism 8

Q. How does God execute his decrees?

A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

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

Kids Message and Prayer for our children

Missions Update – East Timor

Reading of Scripture *John 17:20-26* (*Church Bible p.903*)

Prayer of Illumination

Message *John 17:20-26* “*Jesus Prayer for his People*”

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Big Idea: Jesus prays for unity among his disciples so that the world can see the gospel.

JESUS PRAYS FOR US, CHRISTIANS OF ALL TIMES AND PLACES ...

1) That we may have unity with one another

2 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 (treasurer@shorepres.org.nz).

2) That our unity may be presented to the world

3) That the Father sent the Son into the world

4) That the Father loves the world

Song of Response

Jesus What A Friend For Sinners

Author: J. Wilbur Chapman

Jesus, what a friend for sinners

Jesus, lover of my soul;

Friends may fail me, foes assail me,

He, my Saviour, makes me whole

Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

Hallelujah, what a friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end.

Jesus, what a strength in weakness

Let me hide myself in Him.

Tempted, tried, and often failing,

He, my strength, my victory wins.

Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

Hallelujah, what a friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end.

Jesus, what a help in sorrow

While the billows o'er me roll,

Even when my heart is breaking,

He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

Hallelujah, what a friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end.

Jesus, I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find.
He has granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

Hallelujah, what a Saviour!
Hallelujah, what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end. (REPEAT)

BENEDICTION³

Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions for Contemplation or Discussion

Scripture Reading

John 17:20-26

1. Why would you say that unity among Christians is something important to Jesus?
2. What is the basis of our unity as disciples of Christ?
3. How can we seek and grow unity among ourselves at SPC?
4. What results does our unity have for the world?

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

³ 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

When: next: 7th of April (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 one will be March 24th.

Good Friday Service

On the 29th of March there will be a Good Friday service at Northcross church, in partnership with other local churches. Pastor Russell will have the opportunity to give a short message during the service. More details to come soon.

Outreach Opportunity at Massey University – Wednesday, 27th March, 11-2:00

In conjunction with Holy Week, leading up to Easter, we are being given the opportunity to be present on campus at Massey University, in Albany. We will be looking to give out some food, spiritual material, and possibly play live music. Pastor Russell is looking for 2 or 3 people to help out. If you are interested, please let him know.

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 study will not meet on the 20th of March, coming off the retreat.) So the next one will be the 3rd of April.

Sunday worship for next Sunday, 17th of March, at Houghton's Bush Camp, Muriwai

Our church will gather for worship at Houghton's Bush Camp next Sunday, as we wrap-up the weekend retreat. **NO ONE WILL BE GATHERING FOR WORSHIP AT LONG BAY PRIMARY.** If anyone needs a ride to Muriwai, please let us know. If you cannot make it to Muriwai, you are encouraged to worship at another Gospel-preaching church.

Surf and Sound (Fireworks) – Church Fellowship Opportunity – Orewa, 30th of March

The Schnughs are inviting church folks to an informal fellowship time, to enjoy the beach and fireworks with them in Orewa, the 30th of March. They will be there from about 3:30, and the fireworks are usually around 8:30. Precise location details to come.

Serving Roster for, Sunday the 24th of March

SHORE KID'S LEADER	CRECHE	SHARED LUNCH	OPEN UP & FIRE WARDEN	HALL SET-UP	HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP	SUPERVISE PLAY GROUND
TBA	Volunteer	Dorette & Nicki	Dennis	Dennis & Paul B.	Dennis, Paul & 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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