



## Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,  
24<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024

The Lord's Day

Baptismal 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. *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

*Zechariah 9:9,10,17*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble  
and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ... His rule shall be  
from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. How great is his  
goodness, and how great his beauty!

## Invocation <sup>1</sup>

## Song of Adoration & Praise

### *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

*Author: Matt Papa*

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
In the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heaven's praises  
Robed in frail humanity

*In our longing, in our darkness  
Now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ, who condescended  
Took on flesh to ransom us*

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
He the perfect Son of Man  
In His living, in His suffering  
Never trace nor stain of sin

*See the true and better Adam  
Come to save the hell-bound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
Of the law; in Him we stand*

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
Hangs the Lamb in victory

*See the price of our redemption  
See the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory  
Grace unmeasured, love untold*

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

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him  
Praise the Lord; He is alive!

*What a foretaste of deliverance  
How unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected  
As we will be when he comes*

### **Confession of Sin** *Deuteronomy 10:12-13,16*

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD which I am commanding you today for your good?  
... Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

### **Assurance of Grace** *Ezekiel 36:26-27*

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

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

#### **Song of Thanksgiving for Grace**

##### *By Faith*

Authors: Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness  
Who walk by faith and not by sight

By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand  
A place where peace and justice reign

*(Chorus)*

We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death  
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go  
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In ev'ry corner of the earth

By faith the mountain shall be moved  
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name

## **Confession of Faith**

## *Westminster Shorter Catechism 10*

Q. How did God create man?

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

## **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>

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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,

# Kids Message and Prayer for our children

## Reading of Scripture

*Galatians 3:15-29*

## Prayer of Illumination

### **Message** Gal. 3:15-29 *“All Children of God’s Gracious Promise”*

*Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions*

All Children of God's Gracious Promise:

1. All are sons of God by faith
2. Baptism is about faith in Christ
3. We are United in Baptism
4. Children of the Promise

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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).

## **Baptism**

### *Vows of the parents*

- Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
- Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavour to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### *Vow of the congregation*

- Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

## **Song of Response**

### *Abide With Me*

*Author: Henry F. Lyte*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;  
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me, oft as I've left Thee,  
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness  
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

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

*1 Peter 1:1-2*

To those who have obtained a faith in our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge God and of Jesus our Lord.

## **Questions for Contemplation or Discussion**

### **Scripture Reading**

*Galatians 3:15-29*

1. According to v.26, how should we define a son of God?
2. Is 'putting on Christ' something that you are conscious of?
3. The early church had to deal with divisions between Jews and Gentiles. What are the things that divide us today?
4. How can a Christian be 'Abraham's offspring'?

## **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)

### **Lord's Supper and Shared Meal**

**When:** next: 7th of April (first Sunday of every month)

<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.



**Prayer Meeting—Fortnightly at the Goodenoughs, Sundays at 7:00pm (today)**

Our regular prayer meeting is fortnightly at the Goodenoughs home in Torbay. The next two will be the 24<sup>th</sup> of March and the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Surf and Sound(Fireworks) – Church Fellowship Opportunity – Orewa, 30<sup>th</sup> of March**

The Schnughs are inviting church folks to an informal fellowship time, to enjoy the beach and fireworks with them in Orewa, the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. They will be there from about 3:30, and the fireworks are usually around 8:00. Orewa Surf Life Saving Club: 275 Hibiscus Coast Highway Orewa, Auckland, 0931. Parking is available at Western Reserve, entrance off Edgewater Grove. A map for the precise location of where to meet was attached to the weekly church email. Food trucks will be on site.

**Discipleship Group Opportunities—Please Express Interest on Back Table**

As a church, we are hoping to encourage growth in discipleship through various discipleship group opportunities. Please express interest for group participation on an interest sheet in the back of the hall, so the elders can help you connect with a group. If you have any questions, please ask one of the elders.

**Good Friday Service – March 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am, Northcross Church**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Membership Class – Beginning March 24<sup>th</sup>, after the service (today)**

For those who have already begun the membership process, or are interested in becoming members at Shore Pres. We will meet soon after the service for about 45 minutes, in the spare classroom. The class will run for several weeks. We will not have it on April 7<sup>th</sup> because of the shared meal. Please inform Pastor Russell if you plan to attend.

**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 will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

## Serving Roster for next Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> of March

SHORE KID'S LEADER	CRECHE	TEA & SNACK	OPEN UP & FIRE WARDEN	HALL SET-UP	HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP	SUPERVISE PLAY GROUND
TBA	Volunteer	Ingrid & Nicki	Dennis	Dennis & Paul G.	Dennis, Paul G. & 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 by contacting Russell our pastor to discuss them.*



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