



Welcome to Worship

SUNDAY,
31st of March, 2024

The Lord's Day

Easter Sunday

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 *1 Peter 1:3, 2:1, Luke 24:34¹ (Responsive)*

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
 According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again
 to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
 the dead.

(Response) *He has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light!*

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

(Response) *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Invocation ²

Scripture Reading *Matthew 28:1-10* *(Church Bible p.835)*

Song of Adoration & Praise

See What A Morning

Authors: Kieth & Kristin Getty

See, what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen"
 See God's salvation plan
 Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice
 Fulfilled in Christ, the man
 For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again
 The voice that spans the years
 Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us
 Will sound till He appears
 For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead

¹ All passages of Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.

² An invocation is simply a prayer that calls upon God's presence, assistance, and blessing during worship.

One with the Father, Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority
And we are raised with Him
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead

Confession of Sin *Romans 5:12*

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

Assurance of Grace *Romans 6:5–11*

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace

Song of Thanksgiving for Grace

In Christ Alone

Authors: Keith & Kristin Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism 11

Q. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

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.³

Song of Preparation for Hearing God's Word

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Public Domain

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land
Where my possessions lie

All o'er those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day
There God the Son forever reigns
And scatters night away

(Chorus)

I am bound I am bound
I am bound for the promised land
I am bound I am bound
I am bound for the promised land

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore
Sickness sorrow pain and death
Are felt and feared no more

(Chorus)

When shall I see that happy place
And be forever blessed
When shall I see my Father's face
And in His bosom rest

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 (treasurer@shorepres.org.nz).

(Chorus)

Kids Message and Prayer for our children

Reading of Scripture *1 Cor. 15:12-28* *(Church Bible p.961)*

Prayer of Illumination

Message *1 Corinthians 15:12-28* *“Christ the Firstfruits”*

Message outline for your notes, thoughts, questions

Big Idea – Christ’s resurrection means the resurrection of those who belong to Him.

Christ as the firstfruits means his people are to live in:

1) An Expectant Hope

2) Complete Victory

Song of Response

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

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

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

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

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Benediction⁴

Hebrews 13:20–21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Questions for Contemplation or Discussion

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-28

1. Do you agree with the importance of hope for daily living? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean for Christ to be the firstfruits?
3. What does it mean for you to live in expectant hope on a daily basis?
4. How can we seek to live in “complete victory” without giving into a prosperity gospel mindset?
5. How would you explain why the resurrection is central and indispensable for our faith, to a non-believer?

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 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 two the 7th and 21st of April.

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.

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.

Membership Class – Continuing 14th of April, after the service

For those who have already begun the membership process, or are interested in becoming members at Shore Pres. We will meet after the service for about 45 minutes, in classroom #4. The class will run for several weeks. We will continue on the 14th, 21st, and 28th of April. Please inform Pastor Russell if you plan to attend.

Women’s Bible Study—Wednesdays, 7:00pm, continuing fortnightly (this week)

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 two will be the 3rd and 17th of April.

Serving Roster for next Sunday the 7th of April

SHORE KID’S LEADER	CRECHE	SHARED MEAL	OPEN UP & FIRE WARDEN	HALL SET-UP	HALL TAKE DOWN & CLEAN UP	SUPERVISE PLAY GROUND
TBA	Volunteer	Debbie & Gemma	Dennis	Dennis, Justin, & Stephen	Dennis, Justin, Stephen & 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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