

HOON HAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to today's service, the Second Sunday of Easter, 19th April 2020



To Ponder: 'Despair hovers like a vulture, but hope soars like an eagle.'
William Wilberforce (1759-1833)

Hello Everyone,

The lockdown wears on and we are still 'having church' online. Although the signs look encouraging for an easing of the restrictions, I suspect it will be some time yet before we can be together. Meanwhile, thanks again to members of the Parish Council and others who are taking time to phone, email, and text folk in our congregation. Please keep that up and if a person's name comes to mind, take that moment to ring them!

We continue this week with another message in the 'Anchored in Christ' series. This time we're considering 'devices of the heart'. As mentioned previously, a suggested approach with the Order of Service is to find a quiet space and work your way through. The songs each have a link and you can use your own Bible or the links provided (Bible Gateway) for the readings. I am working from the NIV (unless otherwise cited).

Blessings,
Michael



Song: 'What a Beautiful Name' 

As we continue to reflect on the resurrection this contemporary worship song affirms the glory of the risen Lord Jesus

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,




You are the Source of Light, Giver of Life,
satisfy our questing spirits
in him who is the image of your glory,
the light which does not fail,
the life which does not die,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Draw near to us in love

as we now draw near to you in prayer,
that we may be obedient to the heavenly vision
and share daily in the risen life of your Son
both in the worship of our hearts
and in the work of our hands.

Amen

To zoom in on any part of this document, hold down the Control Key and use the mouse roller, or you can use buttons on the toolbar.

Clicking the icons    alongside songs & message will open them on a new screen, either in YouTube or 'Bible Gateway' for the Bible Readings. After viewing, click the 'Back' screen to return to this document.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD



Psalm 63 (GNB)

- 1 O God, you are my God,
and I long for you.
My whole being desires you;
like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land,
my soul is thirsty for you.
- 2 Let me see you in the sanctuary;
let me see how mighty and glorious you are.
- 3 Your constant love is better than life itself,
and so I will praise you.
- 4 I will give you thanks as long as I live;
I will raise my hands to you in prayer.
- 5 My soul will feast and be satisfied,
and I will sing glad songs of praise to you.
- 6 As I lie in bed, I remember you;
all night long I think of you,
- 7 because you have always been my help.
In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
- 8 I cling to you,
and your hand keeps me safe.
- 9 Those who are trying to kill me
will go down into the world of the dead.
- 10 They will be killed in battle,
and their bodies eaten by wolves.
- 11 Because God gives him victory, the king will rejoice.
Those who make promises in God's name will praise
him, but the mouths of liars will be shut.

Hymn: 'Be Thou My Vision' 

*A neat version of the favourite Irish hymn
(no lyrics on screen)*

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON

Holy God,


We bow before you as created and finite beings, affirming your eternal, ever-present, and boundless love. We acknowledge there are times we fail to recognise your presence in the daily rhythm of our lives and we easily rest solely on our own resources. Sometimes shame clenches tightly our hearts, and we hide our true feelings from you and others. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength in you. Sometimes doubt overshadows hope, and our own wisdom is wanting.

In the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Create in us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment reality of our lives, and to live honestly, act courageously, and to speak love and hope to a hurting world.


And we pray the prayer Jesus taught...


Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your Kingdom come.
Your Will be done,
On earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the
Power and the Glory are Yours
Now and forever. *Amen*





Hymn: 'Just as I am' 
As we reflect on today's theme this classic song of supplication is appropriate



Scripture Readings:


Psalm 51 

Philippians 3:12-21 

Hebrews 4:12-13 

Song: Psalm 51 
This is the Scottish musician Ian White's interpretation of David's Psalm vs. 10-17 (based on the NIV)

Message: 'Anchored in Christ' 
Part 4 – devices of the heart
w/ Teaching Notes 
Time of Quiet

Hymn: 'O Perfect Love' 
Another hymn we often sing! This version has lyrics and nice nature visuals

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa
Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti
Me te aroha o te Atua
Me te whiwhingatahitanga
Ki te wairua tapu
Ake, ake, ake.
Amine**

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

Amen

NOTICES

All services and other activities and gatherings remain cancelled until further notice. Please keep informed and connected by checking the church [website](#) and also our Facebook [page](#). Please encourage your wider family and friends to view our services. If you wish to recap earlier messages, these are available on our YouTube [Channel](#).

We need to continue to heed all official advice from the Government and Ministry of Health re the Covid-19 pandemic. Please pray for each other and especially those we know are vulnerable.

Anne Edgar is kindly sending out the Word for Today devotional as an email. If you are not currently on her list but would like to be please contact [Anne](#).

Do share with us celebrations and milestones (email the church office). These will then be mentioned in the following week's notices.

Thanks to all who are maintaining regular giving during this time. If you need help with internet banking please contact Shilo via the [Office email](#).

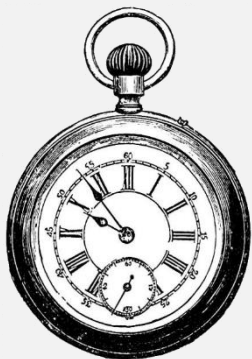
HELPFUL LINKS

Moderator's Online Devotions each Sunday: Right Rev Fakafo Kaio is currently leading weekly devotions each Sunday during the period that public worship is suspended. The devotion will be available on the [Moderator's Facebook page](#) by 9am each Sunday. The devotions will last for approximately 20 mins.

Steady As You Go Exercises: Age Concern Canterbury has published some [exercises](#) to try at home, these are gentle exercises but please take care when practicing them.



PASTOR'S REFLECTION



I shared last week about our Logos Hour study on Ecclesiastes 3. I'd like to dwell further today on the idea of time. In a Jewish-Christian sense, time is linear, unlike, for example, in Eastern thought, where time is cyclic (an endless cycle of birth and rebirth). The first words of Genesis are 'In the beginning', and Jesus proclaims himself 'Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End' (Revelation 22:13). This means everything in human history is heading towards a known end and there is an appointed time (*kairos*) and the normal passage of time (*chronos*). Everything in our reality in the created world is determined by time and it is a reference point for all existence. Before-after, sooner-later, younger-older, just a moment, in a while, and so on – everything is indexed to *time* and we can't relive, pause time, or go forward into the future. We only have now.

It's small wonder that active imaginations have been captivated with time and especially the idea of time travel. Whether its early novels like H. G. Wells' *Time Machine*, or more recent science-fiction TV programmes like *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek*, or a major film series like *Back to the Future*, we have an on-going fascination with time. In a more grounded sense, those who are older may wonder where the years have gone and yearn for the energy, health and vitality of times past. This feeling is probably not helped when we live in an age that values youth and ambition over age and wisdom.

In this, church communities need to be counter-cultural; even if they have vibrant youth and young people's ministries. Why? Because Scripture affirms that godly wisdom comes with age and we have an aging demographic bulge of early Baby Boomers (those born after WWII). There are so many verses that speak of age and wisdom, e.g. Genesis 25:8, Deuteronomy 32:7, 34:7; Ecclesiastes 7:10, 2 Corinthians 4:16, and 1 Timothy 5:8. Job 12:12 is perhaps the clearest, 'Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?' It certainly does! Although not possible currently, I really enjoy visiting and hearing stories about the wisdom of age. I also feel we can 'do older better' but what that looks like will need creative ideas and input. In addition to developing our young people's ministry, could we become a faith hub for seniors? What might that look like? So many questions, but we'll keep thinking, talking and praying.

Blessings for a good week – keep in touch and stay safe!

Michael

MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL MODERATOR



Greetings,

“Love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends.” (John 15:12-14)

The words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ring and echo loudly in our situation today.

In fact, as we all attest to this truth in life, it is the sound of Jesus’ words that permeate our being as we move from Easter toward Anzac Day. Easter was very different this year, with the crowds and gatherings, worship and fellowship, meals of fish and bread, communion - all carried out using digital communication. This is an unprecedented situation due to unusual times affecting the whole world. What stands out for me each and every year is: “Jesus died on the Cross, for you and I”.

ANZAC Day appropriately follows Easter on our calendar. The underlying theme of the Cross is echoed by the soldiers that died for “God, King and country”. Their lives, their commitments, their sacrifices were for you and I, which is commemorated on ANZAC. It is poignant, significant and sacred.

Many lives were lost. We are forever indebted to the brave men and women who died on the frontier of the battlefields for our freedom, for all that we have. We will never forget them. We remember and recall ANZAC every year, and we educate our children about this alliance. We will remember them: they are our heroes, our champions, our “game-changers”.

Today, in our world and in our country, we have new heroes, champions and “game-changers”. These new heroes are the many men, women and children who have stepped up, arisen, “taken the bull by the horns” and made a difference in the lives of many during the Covid-19 crisis. To all the essential workers (police, nurses, doctors, firefighters, rest home carers, orderlies, supermarket workers, chaplains... the list is long), thank you. Bless you.

Your service for the masses, for our country, is both courageous and brave. You are valued and loved, appreciated and cherished. You risk your lives every day against an unseen enemy - Covid-19. Your work is in the same order of sacrifice as our Lord Jesus on the Cross and the soldiers on the battlefields. Your lives are on the line every time you step up and step out. We salute you and keep you and your loved ones in our prayers. We will not forget you.

Jesus said, “I came that you may have life, life in all its fullness”. (John 10:10)

Blessings Fakaofu

Yours in Christ's service,

Right Reverend Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand