

HOON HAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to our Service, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, 17th May 2020

OPENING PRAYER



Almighty God,

As we gather again this morning, may you be with us.

Help us put aside everyday the things of everyday life and be still in your presence.

May you speak to us by your Holy Spirit.

Teach us, challenge, encourage, and equip us.

Through our time today in your Word, in song, and in prayer.

Amen

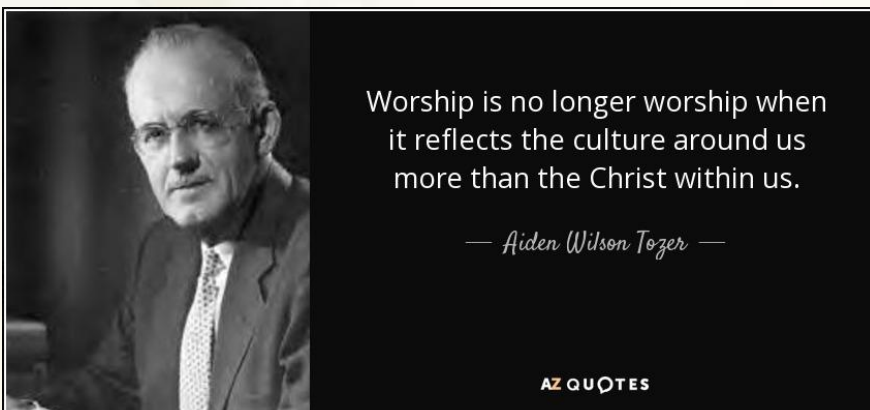
Kia Ora, Hello Everybody,

Welcome to another online service – our first under the Alert Level 2 restrictions. Please be assured the Parish Council is carefully considering when and how we can return to on-site Sunday meetings. It's not simply a matter of turning up and picking up where we left off. There is much preparation required and there will be strict guidelines and some changes. We have to time these things carefully and do them properly. Thanks for your patience and prayers!

This week we explore the theme of Worship in another teaching in our 'Anchored in Christ' series. I want to present an expanded view of worship. We tend to think only of music when we discuss or 'do' worship, but I want to suggest there is a lot more than only music and singing involved.

Thank you again to everyone for keeping in touch with each other. These are very testing times but we are always better together, so please keep phoning, emailing, sending texts, etc.

Blessings, *Michael*



IMPORTANT LINKS FOR 'LEVEL TWO'

Covid-19 Update from PCANZ

More from PCANZ

Waihoru/Spreydon-Cashmere newsletter

Hymn: 'Holy, Holy, Holy'



This familiar hymn is an important reminder that God is three times holy.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Psalm 97 (NIV)

- 1 The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
- 2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the
foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
- 4 His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before the
LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.
- 7 All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols –
worship him, all you gods!
- 8 Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, LORD.
- 9 For you, LORD, are the Most High over all
the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 Let those who love the LORD hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the
wicked.
- 11 Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you who are
righteous,
and praise his holy name.

Song: 'All Heaven Declares'



*In worship we join with what is already
happening in heaven: all heaven declares God's
glory and so do we!*

WE CONFESS AND INTERCEDE

Heavenly Father,

We come before you in our prayer of
confession.

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,
Whose wrongs are pardoned.

We confess our sins to you, Lord.

We will not conceal our wrongdoing.

You forgive and heal us

And we need your healing, merciful God:

Give us true repentance.

Some sins are plain to us;

Some escape us,

Some we cannot face.

Forgive us;

Set us free to hear your word to us;

Set us free to serve you.

And we pray now for others and our world.

We remember people around the world
affected by the coronavirus and pray for their
recovery and healing. We ask for your
protection and wisdom to be with health
workers; those tending the suffering, and we
ask that the virus be contained, and a vaccine
promptly discovered. Lord have mercy.

We pray for our nation at this time of great
uncertainty. Be with our leaders and decision-
makers and guide them in the path of wisdom.
We pray for our economy and the workplaces
and employees affected by the pandemic.
Please speak to our nation by your Holy Spirit
as all the things that previously seemed to
provide security, have suddenly become
uncertain. May there be a turning of hearts and
minds towards you, O God, for only in you
can we know true peace. Lord have mercy.

We pray for all those known to us who are
hurting, isolated, and struggling. May your
light break through into their darkness. May
your glory and grace be shared with them by
others who show kindness and concern. Lord
have mercy. We pray these things through
Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

2 Kings 23: 1-9



New Testament

Romans 12: 1-8



Hymn: 'All Glory Laud and Honour' 

Our favourite Palm Sunday hymn – good for every occasion!

Message: 'Anchored in Christ' Pt 7: Wising Up on Worship – Five Myths



w/ Teaching Notes



Time of Quiet

Doxology: 

The Worship Circle brings us their version of the Doxology (God be Praised).

BENEDICTION

**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***

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us
all
Forever and ever

Amen*

NOTICES

Services at our premises are suspended but we hope to back meeting soon. Meanwhile, please keep informed and connected by checking our website (hoonhaychurch.co.nz), the Facebook page. We have some folk who don't have the internet and can't follow services online. If you know someone in that situation a suggestion is to phone and share about the service with them. You can 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 the list but would like to be please let [Anne](#) know. Anne also continues to coordinate prayer points for each week and email them out – thank you, Anne.

Please email the church office with celebration notices. We want to share these milestones with the church community.

Thanks to all who are maintaining regular giving. You can continue to give through internet banking, our account number is Westpac 03-1594-0262669-00. Please continue to pray for our finances and if you need help with internet banking please contact Shilo via the [office email](#).

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

We are all well aware of how everyday life changed during the lockdown, and even under Alert Level 2 so much of what we used to take for granted is still changing. When we will get back to regular Sunday services is still to be finalised, but even then, things will look different. Firstly, our premises (like those everywhere) will need general cleaning after many weeks of accumulated dust; and then there will be specific cleaning in readiness for our meetings. Please pray for the Parish Council as important decisions need to be made, and for other groups that use our premises; the timing of their return is also important.



During the lockdown, my car saw little use. Early on I started it and drove short distances just to keep the battery charged, but increasingly the battery sounded 'dodgy' and the car became harder to start. A few starts with jumper leads were necessary. Eventually,

however, despite my best efforts, the battery 'died' and all I got was the unpleasant fast clicking sound that told me what I actually knew: I needed a new battery! Once fitted, I have of course, experienced no further problems (the car fires into life), even after sitting for several days. Like many mechanical things, a car is meant to be used regularly. With careful driving and good maintenance most modern cars are very reliable; but problems can arise when used only occasionally, and not only with the battery. In short, today's engines are meant to be driven!

I think there are parallels here with the use of our giftings: they are meant to be used all the time to bless the Body of Christ. To neglect them or use them only as the whim takes us, means the body suffers and we may feel frustrated too. What are the things you know you do that help others and bless the body? I heard this week of one of our members that has been busy not only phoning around but also writing and posting cards of encouragement - fantastic! Another made contact somewhat out of the blue, with Mother's Day greetings for Celia. What a blessing! Then there are those who keep an eye on our premises and keep the lawns and grounds tidy, and so on. Different people using their different gifts to bless and help others. All gifts are 'spiritual gifts' because they are of the Holy Spirit, even though we tend to think of spiritual gifts as solely the demonstrative, supernatural or sign gifts. The point is, if everyone is using what God has given them we are built-up and encouraged. Let's never tire of doing those things we know are personally fulfilling and that bless others.

Have a good week - keep in touch and stay safe.

HELPFUL LINKS

Moderator's Online Devotions each Sunday: Right Rev Fakaofu 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 9.00 am 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 practising them.