

# HOON HAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to our Service, the Seventh Sunday of Easter, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## OPENING PRAYER

”THEOLOGY IS THE  
WORSHIPING OF GOD  
WITH THE MIND.”

T.F. TORRANCE

*Heavenly Father,*

As we come before you in a time of song,  
prayer, and teaching,

May the Holy Spirit reveal to us a fuller  
understanding of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus  
Christ,

And help us to still our hearts and minds,

To enjoy your presence.

*Amen*

Kia Ora, Hello Everybody,

Welcome to another online service. Like churches everywhere we wait to see if the government will make changes allowing us to meet again at church. The rules enabling certain groups to meet but not churches will hopefully be reviewed and the restrictions lifted soon. Meanwhile, the Parish Council continues to work towards plans and policies in a post-COVID world.


I meet weekly with other ministers in the Alpine Presbytery via Zoom videoconference. These meetings have been helpful to share, support, and encourage each other as we have been in an extended period of isolation. Last week, one of the participants pointed out that for all of our churches life will not be the same as it was before the pandemic. Even if we thought things will soon get back to an 'old normal' – they won't; indeed, they can't. He went on to ask: "What's one thing you'd leave behind, and one thing you'd do differently?" That poses an interesting and important challenge. The point was also made that we will drift back to how things were unless we are intentional. One positive has been an increased and constructive use of technology, and perhaps that is something we can build upon going forward.

This week we explore the Mind in our 'Anchored in Christ' series. Along with the heart, the mind is the core of our being and also profoundly spiritual. A key to effective living is the ascended mind of Christ. We will look at what this means and its practical implications.

Blessings,

*Michael*

ANCHORED  
IN  
CHRIST

**Hymn:** 'To God be the Glory' 

*An orchestral version of a favourite hymn recorded in the Royal Albert Hall, London.*

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Psalm 103: 1-14 (NIV)

Praise the LORD, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits -

who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and  
compassion,

who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the  
eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbour his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.


For as high as the heavens are above the  
earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions  
from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those  
who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.

**Song:** 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven'

 *Psalm 103 sung to a double organ  
accompaniment.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Heavenly Father,*

For as far as we can remember we have had  
the mistaken notion that the problems of this  
world can be solved with the 'mighty dollar'.

The Pharisees came to Jesus to ask him if they  
should pay taxes, and looking at a silver coin,  
Jesus asked whose face and name were  
engraved on it.

"The Emperor's," they said.

"Well then, pay to the Emperor what is his,"  
Jesus replied.

Has God's face ever been on a coin?  
We have much to learn.

We are the coin that bears the living likeness  
of God.

Giving of ourselves with whatever that may  
include, is the only legal currency of the  
kingdom of heaven.

Forgive us, O God, when we have simply  
fallen in with the ways of the world, and  
failed to be your redeemed people.

Worshipping you, living simply, and loving  
others.

Restore to us the joy of our salvation,  
And a renewed desire to worship and serve.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,

*Amen*



# SCRIPTURE READINGS

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Old Testament


Proverbs 3: 1-8



New Testament

Philippians 2: 1-11



**Hymn:** 'King of Kings, Majesty' 

*A contemporary song of praise complete with attractive nature visuals.*


**Message:** 'Anchored in Christ' Pt 8: The Mind: brainwashed or brain washed?



w/ Teaching Notes



*Time of Quiet*

**Doxology:** 

*This week our sung Doxology comes from Anthem Lights, a talented vocal group. A relevant scripture text is Romans 11:33-36. You may want to listen to this more than once.*

## 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

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Services at our premises are suspended but we hope to back meeting soon. Meanwhile, please keep informed and connected by checking our [website](#), and on [Facebook](#). 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 continues to coordinate prayer points for each week and email them out. Please let her know if you have specific prayer requests.

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. For those choosing to 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

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*Something a little different this week! I came across this delightfully written piece which reflects on our present situation in an entertaining but still insightful manner. Titled **A Pandemic Parable** it is written by Rex Ahdar, a legal academic at Otago University, and originally published in 'The Pundit' blogsite (17 May, 2020)*

And so it came pass that a great plague swept the face of all the Earth. Some say it came from the East, others say it came from gloomy caverns of the bat or jungles of the civet. From whence it came, who can say? But come it did.

In the distant kingdom the temples of the gods had fallen silent.

As the waters of contagion receded, the Queen did declare that the people could meet again. After seven days times seven let all the merchants and bazaars sell their wares.

The priests of Middle Earth and the sons and daughters of Men were exceedingly glad. For the worshippers had not paid homage nor supplication. Neither did they replenish the storehouse: the sound of shekels and farthings had not been heard therein for many a long day.

But lo, there was a caveat. Frivolity and feasting, yea indeed, "but fellowship do not partake, neither you, nor your maidservant nor manservant, nor the sojourner in your midst."

It was decreed that "Feasting there may be, of five score and no more. But if thou dost gather for fellowship, let it be but half a score, lest the pestilence return."

Protested the priests, "How be it the house of disrobing for the lascivious pleasure of tax collectors and sinners is not so?"

"Those be not for fellowship, neither close interaction", was the regal reply. (Was that the distant sound of the suppressed laughter of a priest of Middle Earth who knew that was untrue?)

"But we must bury our dead!", the people cried. "Let the dead bury the dead", said the Sovereign. The sons and daughters of Ranginui and Papatuanuku were provoked to wrath and did rent their garments. The Queen relented: "For the sake of your ancestors with whom I made a covenant, you may have two score and ten, but no more."

"The decree of the Queen is not to be gainsaid. But I shall show mercy upon whom I show mercy." The one called the Epidemiologist, a sorcerer of great renown, did reluctantly concur.

"Do not fret! Fear not! The decree be revisited soon", pronounced the Queen.

The temple priests (all bar he whose destiny had been foretold) were soothed. The temple treasurers were mollified. And yet the children of the Land grew impatient and did murmur.

"Is there no balm in Gilead?"

And a voice was heard: "be ye kind to one another".

The hearts of the people were thus strengthened and peace returned to the kingdom.

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

Michael