

# HOON HAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to today's service, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,

We humbly come into your presence,  
grateful you call us to share in Christ's  
ministry of reconciliation.

In penitence and faith,  
we commit ourselves to pray for your  
kingdom to come  
and work together with all people of good  
will

toward that justice and peace between  
nations and peoples  
which is the hope of our calling

We pray you are with us in our service  
today.

Please speak to us as we read, reflect, pray  
and listen.

**Amen**



 **Collect Hymn:** 'Immortal, invisible'

*Sung to the lovely Welsh melody, this is from the recent  
Westminster Abbey Commonwealth Day Service (9 March 2020).*



Kia Ora, Hello Everybody,

Our changed world rolls on now shaped by Alert level 3 (or, as I read somewhere this week 'level 3.9'). Perhaps not too much has changed since last Monday evening but we must keep praying for our world and nation, specifically that a vaccine be found and that the economy can restart and recover. One thing's certain: the so-called 'new normal' even in a post-Covid world will have us all living differently.

Last weekend our Parish Council met (via Zoom) and it was encouraging to hear how well our folk have been coping during the lockdown, and that a high level of care, concern, and connection is being maintained. Well done, and please keep that up. We had a general discussion about what meeting together might look like in the future, but quite simply we don't know and will have to discern this step-by-step.

We are fortunate today to have Rev. Hamish Galloway sharing with us. Hamish has kindly allowed us to use a recent message he brought at Cashmere Presbyterian. Some may not be aware that Hamish has recently completed his role as Senior Pastor at Hope Hornby and he is now the Interim Minister at Cashmere. He will be well known to most of us but in case you are not aware, Hamish was raised in Hoon Hay and grew up in our church. His late parents Betty and Lindsay were foundation members. Hamish's first parish was in Timaru in the mid-1980s, followed by a long stint as Chaplain at St. Andrew's College prior to Hornby. Hamish is the Moderator Designate of the PCANZ and he will move into that position after a period at Cashmere. Today he shares some very practical insights into prayer.

Blessings, 

# OUR APPROACH TO GOD



## 1 Kings 8:54-61 (NLT) Solomon's Prayer of Dedication of the Temple

<sup>54</sup> When Solomon finished making these prayers and petitions to the LORD, he stood up in front of the altar of the LORD, where he had been kneeling with his hands raised toward heaven. <sup>55</sup> He stood and in a loud voice blessed the entire congregation of Israel:

<sup>56</sup> "Praise the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the wonderful promises he gave through his servant Moses. <sup>57</sup> May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us or abandon us. <sup>58</sup> May he give us the desire to do his will in everything and to obey all the commands, decrees, and regulations that he gave our ancestors. <sup>59</sup> And may these words that I have prayed in the presence of the LORD be before him constantly, day and night, so that the LORD our God may give justice to me and to his people Israel, according to each day's needs. <sup>60</sup> Then people all over the earth will know that the LORD alone is God and there is no other. <sup>61</sup> And may you be completely faithful to the LORD our God. May you always obey his decrees and commands, just as you are doing today."

### Note:

*Solomon's approach can be a pattern for our prayers. He had five basic requests*

- 1) for God's presence (v.57)
- 2) for the desire to do God's will in everything (v.58)
- 3) for help with each day's need (v.59)
- 4) for the desire and ability to obey God's decrees and commands (v.58)
- 5) for the spread of God's kingdom (v.60)



**Hymn:** 'All heaven declares'

*A modern worship classic. Join the chorus of praise!*

## READINGS

1 Samuel 9:15-27



John 20:19-21



# A PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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Heavenly Father,

During the Lord Jesus' ministry on earth, you showed your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments.

Be present now, we ask, to people who need your loving touch because of Covid-19. May they know healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and sense of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. Lord have mercy.

We lift to you our concern for those most vulnerable: the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty. Renew the energy of healthcare workers and first responders who work long hours, and please protect them from contracting the coronavirus themselves. We think also of those who have forfeited being in family bubbles to care for people with dementia or who are otherwise unable to fend for themselves. May these selfless people be protected, encouraged and blessed in their work.

We pray for those facing an uncertain financial and employment future. It's scary not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for a family. Lord have mercy. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them you are present.

Lord, we are grateful for all the people who continue to work each day so we can eat. We ask you bless and protect them as they serve. Give them grace to handle disgruntled customers during times of shortage. Keep their bodies healthy as they unload and stock boxes of supplies; keep their cars and trucks running smoothly as they deliver needed supplies people have ordered online.

Finally, O God, we remember those of our own church family who are unwell or isolated at this time. Be with them, comfort and strengthen them, we ask. Thank you.

In Jesus' name, *Amen*

**Hymn:** 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty'  
*Another great hymn from the recent Commonwealth Service.*



**Message:** 'God is in Our Bubble' – Hamish Galloway  
*The link will take you to the beginning of the message,  
Please stop the video at timestamp 37:50*



Teaching Notes



**Hymn:** 'Salvation belongs to our God'  
*A song of high praise based on Psalm 37:39 and Revelation 7:10*



## We conclude with a Doxology

*(from a third or fourth century papyrus):*

To the only God invisible, the Father of truth,  
who sent to us the Savior and prince of immortality,  
through whom also he revealed to us the truth and  
the heavenly light.

To him be the glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## NOTICES

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Services are not cancelled even though we can't physically meet at church. Please keep informed and connected by checking our [website](#), the Facebook [page](#), and please encourage wider family and friends to view our services. 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 her list but would like to be please contact [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. Income from hire of our facilities has ceased and of course there is no plate giving. Please pray for our finances and if you need help with internet banking please contact Shilo via the [office email](#).

## HELPFUL LINKS

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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 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

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Easter and ANZAC are now behind us for another year. It was interesting to see how creative many people were in commemorating ANZC Day. Floral tributes, chalked messages on the footpaths, cut-out poppies of all sizes, even poetry nailed to trees. Also, some came out early on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> and stood silently, often wearing relatives' medals, while others played the 'Last Post' on a cornet, bugle, or trumpet, or the national anthem on a portable keyboard. The media too, was full of the commemorations and although what was being remembered was anything but glorious, it was good to have some temporary respite from all the Covid-19 news. Some journalists even tried to forge links between the sacrifice of service personnel in the past and the present 'invisible' enemy of Covid-19.

Most if us will have attended a Dawn Service at some stage. To do so is quite an experience. About five years ago our family was at Geraldine and with the sun rising in the cool, but beautifully calm autumn morning, it was very moving to hear the tributes and the 'Last Post' followed by a solemn silence. Up and down the country even in the smallest settlements there are prominent public memorials exhorting us to remember *lest we forget*, and not only those who fell in the two world wars, but also the conflicts in South Africa, Malaya, Korea, Vietnam, and those in the more recent theatres of service.

One thing I have noticed across my own lifetime is a very definite separation of Easter from ANZAC. Particularly in recent years, Easter now scarcely features at all in the media (except bunnies and chocolate) while more and more it seems, is made of ANZAC. It will always be completely appropriate and necessary to commemorate ANZAC Day which is not 'glorifying war' but an ever-present reminder our freedoms have been hard won. But the Christian faith has also had an enormous impact on our cultural life, our heritage, our legal system, and our values and standards. If my observation is correct the trend to elevate ANZAC and diminish Easter may be further evidence of a predominantly secular society. The obvious link, however, is *sacrifice*: ANZAC recalls the loss of many, mostly young New Zealanders who made the supreme sacrifice for their country; while at Easter God sacrificed his only Son for the redemption of all, both Jew and Gentile. And the full story tells us that God made a way for us to benefit from Christ's resurrection. Death is not the final word. It would be great to hear that good news proclaimed even - and perhaps especially - on ANZAC Day!

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

Michael