

HOON HAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to our Pentecost Sunday Service, 31st May 2020



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God and Heavenly Father,

As we come into your presence, please help us still our hearts and minds

To hear what it is you want to speak to us

Thank you that through the Holy Spirit you create a new people chosen to speak, forgive, and give peace in the name of Jesus.

Come afresh, Holy Spirit.

Amen

Kia ora, Hello Everybody,

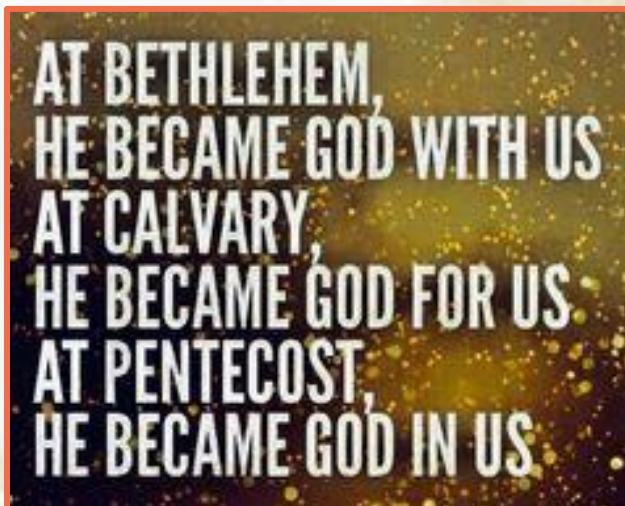
Welcome to Pentecost Sunday. Today Allan Middlemiss one of our very faithful and long-serving members, will bring us a special Pentecost-themed message (thank you Allan!).

As the government continues to manage the national response to COVID-19, meeting together is now possible. We will let you know by email, phone, and the website about our Health and Safety plan enabling us to gather again with all possible precautions observed. Be prepared for church looking a little different but it will be great to be the gathered people of God once again. One possibility is to continue putting the weekly Order of Service on the website (including the video message), but for those who can meet, bring that service 'live' on the Sunday. This is just an idea, but that way, whether at home or at church, we would get to share and participate in the Order of Service.

Meanwhile, as always, please keep in touch with each other as best you can!

Blessings,

Michael



Robert Baer (1952 -)

Video: 'The Holy Spirit' 

This short (one minute) message reminds us who the Holy Spirit is.

Hymn: 'Open the Eyes of My Heart' 

A modern worship classic from Michael W. Smith – Holy Holy, Holy is our God! Even if you don't know this song, the visuals alone are attractive.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Psalms 36: 5-9 (NIV)

A Psalm of David in honouring God's faithfulness, justice and love.

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.

You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

And we pray the prayer Jesus taught...

The Lord's Prayer

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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. *Amen*

Song: 'Bless the Lord - 10,000 Reasons'



*This beautiful song needs to get into the core of our being.
This is high praise in gratitude to our God!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Numbers 11: 25-30 (NIV)



New Testament

Acts 2: 1-21 (The Message)



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and gracious God,
Our hearts cry out for you to make us whole again.
Even as we celebrate that you have come to dwell within us,
We have sinned against you and abandoned your commandments.
We have been jealous, possessive, ambivalent, and impulsive.
We have not heeded your Word and we have not cherished your covenant.
Help us to glorify you in all times and in all places.
As our souls thirst for your living waters,
Quench our needs and satisfy our love.
That we may come back to you and be sent forth
To fill the world with your mercy and grace.
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ,
And by the power of the Holy Spirit who is at work within us,

Amen

Hymn: 'Come thou fount of Every Blessing

A traditional meditation and pledge' 


Message: 'The Holy Spirit - Then & Now'



w/ Teaching Notes



Time of Quiet

Hymn: 'What a friend we have in Jesus' 

An acapella version (with lyrics) of an old favourite

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

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*

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death.

This fills us with a living hope.

1 Peter: 1:3

NOTICES

Hey! Yes, you! Wanna hear something great?! Next week, Sunday 7 June at 10.00am, we will be back at Downing Street for our Sunday Service. All Level 2 requirements will be observed, so come and celebrate being together again. All are welcome.

Please continue to 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 are able to recap earlier messages on our YouTube [Channel](#).

Please let the office know if you are celebrating a milestone or significant event. We want to share these with the church community.

Anne Edgar continues to coordinate prayer points for each week and email them out. Please let her know if you have specific prayer requests.

A very big thank you to all who have continued with their tithes and offerings during the lockdown period. Please pray for our finances and if you need help with internet banking contact Shilo via the [office email](#). Our account number is Westpac 03-1594-0262669-00.

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 practicing them.



A Sunrise over our Church, Wednesday 6 May. Photo Credit: Cathy R, of Downing Street.

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the day the Church specifically acknowledges the Holy Spirit. Jesus received, bore, promised and sent the Spirit to the early believers. The work and witness of the Church is sustained only by the Holy Spirit who brings Christ among us into our everyday reality. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as such, he speaks not on his own authority (John 16:13-14), but the Son's, and the Son glorifies the Father. Our faith is Triune and God is three times holy! The Church Calendar helps us remember the faithfulness of God throughout the year.

While we may not think of it very often – if at all – the Church Calendar is still important. It not only structures our year around key events and seasons of the Church, but it faithfully preserves a rich heritage of faith that has been passed down to us. In many churches, the Calendar and accompanying Lectionary (readings for each season), means very little. And while like any tradition, these do not have absolute value or are observed simply for their own sake, they are a reminder of the faith that has come to us, and of God's faithfulness through the seasons of the year and our lives. The Presbyterian tradition has strong roots in the 16th century Reformation in Europe and especially Scotland. Historically, it values the great creeds and confessions, and places much emphasis on the ministry of Word and Sacrament (preaching, Communion, and Baptism). These things whether or not they are expressed as they are in our particular tradition, are actually the basis of the Church. Undermine, minimise, or dispense with any of them and there is no Christian Church!

While I like to bring new teaching topics in our 'Anchored in Christ' series, I keep an eye on the Calendar and Lectionary. In a practical way, they offer a lot of resources and accumulated wisdom which is always instructive.

In case you had forgotten or are unaware, the liturgical seasons and symbolic colours in the western Church are Advent (purple), Christmas (white), Ordinary Time (Time after Epiphany – green), Lent (purple/purple-red), Easter (white), and Ordinary Time (Time after Pentecost -green). Depending on the denomination there are of course, many extra days (feasts, saints' days, etc.), but these are the main ones. On a personal level, it's good to think of our lives as a parallel to the physical seasons: i.e. spring (youth), summer (maturity), autumn (middle age), and winter (older age). The thing is, *God is with us in every season* and each presents its own challenges and opportunities. Even in tough times and national lament, Jeremiah was able to proclaim, 'Because of the loving devotion of the LORD we are not consumed, for His mercies never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness! "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." ... (Lamentations 3:22-24, *Berean Study Bible*). Meditation on this can transform our day – every day!

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

Michael