

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 29th, 2021



HOON HAY Presbyterian CHURCH

5 Downing Street, Hoon Hay, Christchurch
(03) 338 8901

enquiries@hoonhaychurch.co.nz
www.hoonhaychurch.co.nz

‘He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.’

Revelation 21:4

This week lockdown rolled on. Personally, I am enjoying the quieter pace of life and the time to do various jobs that have been put off over the winter months. The fine weather has helped and clearly Spring is almost upon us.

I choose to drastically limit what news and media sources I read and watch during the lockdown. The sheer deluge of Covid-related ‘news’ is tiresome, even contradictory, and the official narrative changes each day. Imagine just one day without Covid-related media? That would be fabulous; but alas, won’t happen. Meanwhile, we all play our part and get on with life as best we can.

Thanks to those who are keeping in touch with others during the lockdown. Earlier in the year we explored the ‘koinonia’ (fellowship) concept and even in physical separation, there is real strength and encouragement when we keep in touch. And we are blessed today to have so many ways to do this: email, social media, text messaging, and of course, the phone.




A special welcome to those who join us from wider places. We hope and pray you find the service a real blessing in troubled times.

God bless,

Michael



Please click on the image to watch a short introduction of today’s message.

To zoom in on any part of this document, hold down the Control Key and use either the arrow keys or the roller on your mouse, or you can use buttons on the toolbar. Clicking the icon   alongside songs & message will open in YouTube, and  in ‘Bible Gateway’. After viewing, click the ‘Back’ screen to return to this document.

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and truth
without you we cannot live as we ought.
Clothe us with your Spirit
that with both reverence and joy
In the comfort of our own homes
we may be a people of worship.
May the gospel of your love be affirmed and proclaimed
as we set aside this time to be in Your presence;
To pray, hear, listen, and reflect in silence on You and
Your Word
to the glory of your name
Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Listening: 'O That Will Be Glory' 

As we reflect on the hope and glory that awaits believers, this song and the sentiments it expresses are a lost treasure. Despite being from a previous era it is highly relevant and revived here fabulously in acapella. Enjoy!

FOCUSING PSALM: PSALM 40: 1-10

Thanksgiving for Deliverance and Prayer for Help

This Psalm is composed of two themes: thanksgiving of the individual (vs. 1-10), and then an individual lament (vs. 11-17). This balance between praise and a request for deliverance is not unusual in the Psalms (see Psalm 22), but here the emphasis is on praise rather than complaint about misfortune.

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.
⁴ Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts
toward us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
⁷ Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."
⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.
¹⁰ I have not hidden your saving help within
my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and
your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and
your faithfulness
from the great congregation.



Listening: 'Consider it Joy'

This is based on James 1:2-4 and is powerful call to remain strong in the face of trials – which certainly come. God is with us right through this life and into the next.

SCRIPTURE READINGS (NIV)

Old Testament



Ecclesiastes 3

New Testament



1 Corinthians 15: 35-42



Hebrews 2: 14-18

Like many great hymns of faith, this captures the journey of life that leads to eternity. In beautiful and poetic language drawn from the Israelites' pilgrimage in the Old Testament, this is as good as it gets when it comes to high praise. A right royal occasion!



Listening:

'Guide me O, Thou Great Redeemer'

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Almighty God,

Thank you that in Jesus Christ we have a High Priest who identifies with and understands our weakness and that through faith in him we can confidently approach your throne with our prayers and petitions.

We pray now for our world, our nation, community, and parish. We think today of a world that remains unstable in the wake of the pandemic. We pray for a divine hand of restraint over further spreading of the virus and for wisdom and strength for all who are in the front line: the doctors, nurses, and paramedics. May your Spirit give guidance and minister in and through all those who are working to respond to the virus. Lord, have mercy.

We bring before you our own nation. We sing a national anthem petitioning you to defend us – but how can our God defend us if we will not look to you? We pray for wisdom for our leaders in central and local government; for the Prime Minister and cabinet, and MPs from all parties; may these people be guided and strengthened in their work for the good of our nation, rather than furthering party political agendas. We remember those from the Muslim community who are still reeling from the horror of the mosque attacks. We ask, Lord, that somehow the love of Christ be shared with these people in very practical ways, and that you will work in and through Christians to show your love to Muslims.

We pray for the work and witness of the Christian church in our nation. May its leaders be people steeped in your Word and passionate to share the gospel with all people. May believers everywhere, of whatever denomination or stream, know with increasing joy and assurance, that your plans are good and that with you there is always hope. May we also be good stewards of the resources your creation provides; people of less clutter, waste and love of possessions, and more sensitive of and generous towards those in need.

Finally, Lord, we pray for our parish here in Hoon Hay. May you lead us confidently forward into a new era; that we will seek and hear your Spirit's leading and shape a vision that is effective in winning souls and equipping them to serve. Hear our prayer, Lord, and have mercy on us.

We ask all these things, giving glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. ***Amen.***

MESSAGE:



'Faith & Real Life' (Pt.6): Death*

**The editing process removed the introduction on this video, please be aware that the message commences straight away.*

Listening:

Two songs (choose one or both)



'Nearer My God To Thee'

We've used this first hymn on a previous occasion, but it is very apt given today's theme. Always associated with the 'Titanic' disaster, this hymn is actually for life as well as death.

A Latin verse begins, 'In articulo mortis/Caelitus mihi vires,' which translates as, 'At the moment of death/My strength is from heaven'. For the believer this is tremendously encouraging – as earthly life fades we enter eternity and unfathomable glory! Andre Rieu's performance of this song and the reaction of people in the audience captures the power of this hymn to touch souls.



'What a Beautiful Name'

Performed by Brooke Ligertwood (née Fraser), this contemporary song celebrates Christ's finished work and our future glory.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ;
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit;
be with us all, now and forever.

Amen.

CHURCH NOTICES

All services and other activities and gatherings on site are cancelled until further notice. Please keep yourself informed by checking the church [website](#) and Facebook. New notices will be posted there regularly.

During this challenging time, we would like to share in your celebrations and milestones, please email the church office so these events can then be mentioned in the following week's notices.

Moderators Message regarding the community effects of the Delta variant is available [here](#).

Please maintain regular giving during this time. If you need help with banking contact the Church Office by [email](#).

LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

Task One: Just for something a little different, here are a couple of Bible Quote quizzes for you to try. If the first one is a bit [easy](#) and you would want more of a challenge – this [one](#) might be more to your liking 😊

Task Two: Explore your cookbooks and try a little baking, last week we had [date scones](#) for lunch, and this week I see us trialling some [honey and oat biscuits](#) as a home learning activity.