

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



# HOON HAY Presbyterian CHURCH

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Greetings Everyone,

We continue to adjust to life at Level 2. Just how long this level will persist is unknown. Members of the Parish Council are acutely aware of the desire we all share to be back on site and meeting together; however, we are obliged to comply fully with government and national church requirements, which at this point, precludes on-site worship services for the immediate future. Some community groups and activities may be able to meet at our premises from next week if appropriate, and if they observe all protocols and restrictions.




This situation means we must find new and creative ways to experience fellowship and keep connected. I encourage us all to use whatever means available to stay in touch. Online services are not ideal but they have certain advantages; namely, they (potentially) enable people near and far to access something of the life of our fellowship and in some cases, these are not folk who would normally attend an onsite service. Perhaps this is a cloud with a silver lining!

Aside from service preparation, I am still attending to tasks related to the Alpine Presbytery Ministry Convenor role, and also reading material and preparing for the General Assembly (which is now online).




God bless,

*Michael*

**Opening song:** 'All People that on Earth Do Dwell'

 *This lovely hymn is here given a contemporary arrangement but the tune is traditional and the content very appropriate ('come now before Him and rejoice') as a lead-in to a service of worship.*

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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

*Almighty God and Heavenly Father,*  
you are worthy of praise from every mouth,  
of confession from every tongue;  
of worship from every creature.  
You created the world in your grace,  
and by your compassion you redeemed it.  
Heaven and earth are full of your praises:  
Glory be to you, O God Most High;  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
One God for ever.  
Help us set aside other concerns and issues,  
and may your Spirit help us still our hearts and minds  
to focus on worship;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*



**Listening: We listen: 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing'**

*This hymn starts by setting before us a gospel-centred model for worship, both in corporately praising God and for giving Him glory in our day-to-day lives. We are to look to what God has done for us and respond accordingly, with 'songs of loudest praise'.*

### FOCUSING PSALM: PSALM 49: 1-12 (NIV)

*For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm emphasising the futility of worldliness (riches, pride, and fame). Given our teaching focus today on Philemon, the slave owner, verse 7 is a reminder that in the ancient world a slave had to be redeemed or ransomed. There is, however, no way a person can buy eternal life. God alone can redeem us; never possessions and physical comforts.*

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|---|---|
| <sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;<br>listen, all who live in this world,                                 | <sup>8</sup> the ransom for a life is costly,<br>no payment is ever enough—   |
| <sup>2</sup> both low and high,<br>rich and poor alike:   | <sup>9</sup> so that they should live on forever<br>and not see decay.  |
| <sup>3</sup> My mouth will speak words of wisdom;<br>the meditation of my heart will give you<br>understanding. | <sup>10</sup> For all can see that the wise die,<br>that the foolish and the senseless also perish,<br>leaving their wealth to others.                      |
| <sup>4</sup> I will turn my ear to a proverb;<br>with the harp I will expound my riddle:                        | <sup>11</sup> Their tombs will remain their houses forever,<br>their dwellings for endless generations,<br>though they had named lands after<br>themselves. |
| <sup>5</sup> Why should I fear when evil days come,<br>when wicked deceivers surround me—                       | <sup>12</sup> People, despite their wealth, do not endure;<br>they are like the beasts that perish.   |
| <sup>6</sup> those who trust in their wealth<br>and boast of their great riches?                                |   |
| <sup>7</sup> No one can redeem the life of another<br>or give to God a ransom for them—                         |   |



**Listening: 'Blessed be Your Name'**

*A contemporary worship classic. This exhorts us to worship even in hard times and places.*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS (NIV)

Old Testament



Exodus 21:1-11

New Testament



Philemon



**We listen:** 'The Sweet By and By'

*The composer of this hymn, Sandford F. Bennett, was inspired to write it when a friend who was given to depression said he would be 'all right by and by'. With that, the idea for the hymn was birthed and the lyrics came together in around half an hour. Mr. Bennett's friend was Joseph Webster who wrote the music. The song reminds us that the aim of our hope is to live in that land that is fairer than day; that is heaven, which is pictured as a land or country to which God's people want to go (Hebrews 11:13-16).*

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

God of all grace and comfort,  
hear our prayer for those who are lonely and neglected,  
those who are hurting, grieving, or suffering;  
those who are in pain, or abused,  
Lord have mercy.

We pray for our government,  
for those elected to rule and administer our nation's affairs,  
may they do so with integrity and accountability;  
may they serve the greater good rather than selfish ambition,  
Lord have mercy.

We pray too, for believers in other countries who are suffering,  
may they know your comfort, courage, and strength,  
please preserve their lives from injury, injustice or death;  
and may those who are falsely persecuting them, know your grace,  
Lord have mercy

We pray for our church fellowship here at Hoon Hay,  
may we be a people committed to worshipping and serving you,  
and take your love to those around us who need support and care;  
help us to be your people, a people of compassion and grace,

We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

### MESSAGE:



'Your Account is in Credit!' - Philemon

### Listening:



'Amazing Grace'

*Central to the story of Philemon is the welfare of a redeemed slave (Onesimus). Slavery was widespread in the Roman Empire but Paul pleads Onesimus' case – just as Jesus Christ does for us before the Father. Even slaves can be set free and their 'owners' redeemed in God's love. This was the case for John Newton, the notorious slave trader, who came to faith and freedom. We know the song! This version adds slightly to the original but very sensitively. The clip includes moving scenes from the 2006 film 'Amazing Grace'.*

### 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.

**Annual Reports:** If you are able, please email your Annual Report (to the end of June 2021) to the Office so these may be gathered together. Date of AGM to be confirmed.

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.

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

## EXTRA ACTIVITIES TO TRY

**Task One:** This week's [Bible Crossword Puzzle](#) to exercise your knowledge. These can be a challenge but I encourage you to give it a go, you might know more answers than you first realise!

**Task Two:** How are your Sunflower seeds going? This is the time to plant sunflower seeds! Maybe you have some seeds floating around from last year? Sow two seeds in each pot and take out the weakest seedling once they've germinated. Plant out in the garden when the seedling is 12-15 cm tall.



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‘We are all God’s Onesimus.’  
- **Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

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