

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 19th, 2021



HOON HAY Presbyterian CHURCH

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Greetings Everyone.




Thank you for joining us for a further online service. Today I will be bringing a teaching on Galatians 1 and the focus will be what it means to be free in Christ and the pitfalls and problems of the alternative, which is legalism. A special welcome to those who are viewing the service via the internet, wherever you may be. Thank you for taking time to check out who we are at Hoon Hay Presbyterian.

The Parish Council has met this week to discuss resuming onsite services. It was decided that we will meet next Sunday (26 September) at 10 a.m., so please plan to come. There will, of course, be restrictions and protocols related to Alert Level 2, and it won't quite be 'business as usual' but it will be good to be together after more than a month of separation. More details will be provided in an email next week so keep an eye out for that, and if there are folk you know who don't have the internet, please let them know about the service with a phone call. Even better if before then it is announced we are back to Level 1!



Blessings for a good week,

Michael

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,

Great and wonderful are your deeds
just and true are your ways,
all creation is the work of your hand
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the thrice holy God.
Help us this day to set aside
the activities and concerns of this world,
to come and be in your presence
in prayer, song, word, and the quiet,
reflective moments.
Help us to worship you in spirit and truth
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



We listen: 'I Stand Amazed in the Presence'

This chorus follows from the opening prayer and is a favourite at Hoon Hay. It is an affirmation of God's goodness and faithfulness in Christ.

FOCUSING PSALM: PSALM 147 (NIV)

Although God created everything, his greatest joy comes from our genuine worship and trust. This was possibly written when the exiles had returned to Jerusalem.

¹ Praise the LORD.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

² The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³ He heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.

⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.

⁶ The LORD sustains the humble
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷ Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.

⁸ He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹ He provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they call.

¹⁰ His pleasure is not in the strength of the
horse,

nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;
¹¹ the LORD delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

¹² Extol the LORD, Jerusalem;
praise your God, Zion.

¹³ He strengthens the bars of your gates
and blesses your people within you.

¹⁴ He grants peace to your borders
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶ He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.

¹⁷ He hurls down his hail like pebbles.
Who can withstand his icy blast?

¹⁸ He sends his word and melts them;
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He has revealed his word to Jacob,
his laws and decrees to Israel.

²⁰ He has done this for no other nation;
they do not know his laws.

Praise the LORD.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God,

We have sinned against you,
in thought and deed.

We have not loved you with all our heart.

We have not loved others
as our Saviour Jesus Christ loves us.


We are truly sorry.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;
that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways,
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

 **Listening:** 'How deep the Father's love'

This song shifts the attention from a worship style focused on an emotional response, to one affirming the greatness of God and the love he has shown in Christ.

SCRIPTURE READINGS (NIV)

Old Testament:



Jeremiah 1:1-8

New Testament:



Galatians 1

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Gracious God,
rejoicing in your blessings,
trusting in your loving care for all,
we bring you our prayers for the world.

We pray for the created world:
for those who rebuild
where things have been destroyed;
for those who fight hunger, poverty, and
disease;
for those who have power
to bring change for the better and to renew
hope.

In the life of the world,
your kingdom come, O Lord,
your will be done.

We pray for people in need:
those for whom life is a bitter struggle;
those whose lives are clouded
by death or loss,
by pain or disability,
by discouragement or fear,

by shame or rejection.
In the life of the world,
your kingdom come, O Lord,
your will be done.

We pray for the Church near and far
in its stand for the poor,
in its love for the outcast and ashamed,
in its service to the sick and neglected,
in its proclamation of the Gospel,
your kingdom come, O Lord,
your will be done.

Give us grace today
to live faithfully as your people,
to provide generously and live selflessly for
others
until you bring us with all your people
into the fulness of your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you, and the Holy Spirit,
be all praise and glory for ever.

Amen

MESSAGE:



'I want to break free!' – Galatians 1



Listening: 'Love Divine, all loves excelling'

Charles Wesley, (1707- 88) was prolific hymn-writer for all ages and eras. An Oxford scholar, he had a profound and deep faith which was expressed in over 6,000 hymns. In 'Love Divine, all loves excelling' he captures the extravagant love of God in Christ.

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.

'Christian Liberty is freedom from sin,
not freedom to sin.'

A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

CHURCH NOTICES

We will be worshipping on-site from next week, Sunday 26 September. Please note that there will be restrictions in place to ensure we worship safely. An email will be sent out this week, as well as updates to Facebook and our website.

Daylight Saving Time: Don't forget that next Saturday night (25th Sept.) to adjust your clocks before bed so they 'Spring forward' an hour.

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.

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

SUNDAY PUZZLE

This week's [Bible Crossword Puzzle](#) theme is 'Famous Quotes', maybe you remember a couple from the quiz a few weeks back? They can be a challenge, but I encourage you to give it a go, you might know more answers than you first realise!