

## St Paul's Presbyterian Church

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'

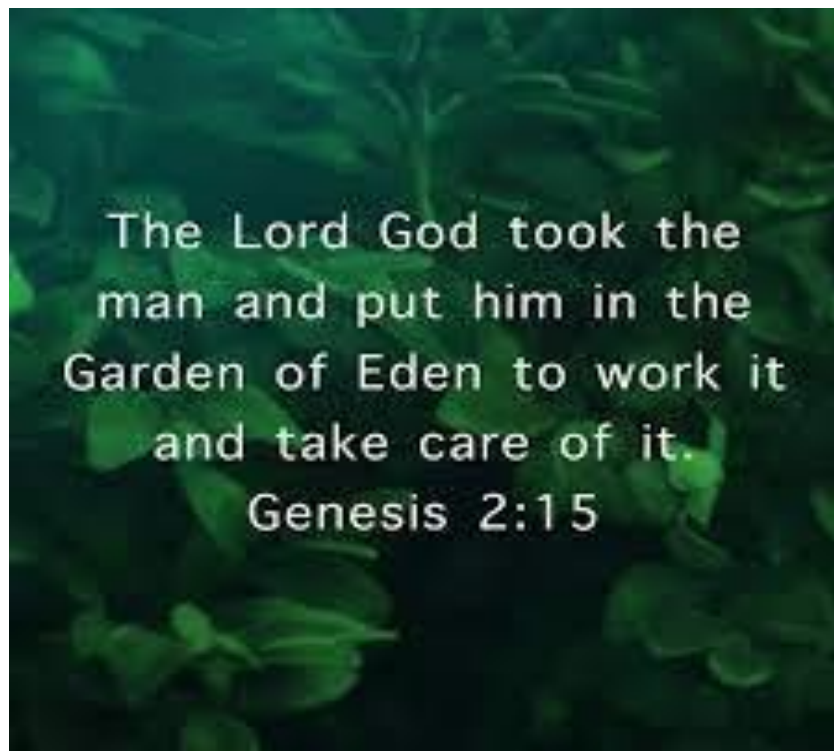
*'We celebrate life in Christ. Join us on the journey'*

**10:00 am Service** led by Keith Rowe  
***Pentecost 15, Sunday 18th September 2022***

It is delightful that you are here as we worship God together this morning. Please join in reading the ***words in bold italic type*** if you would like to.

Where you see a \* please stand if you are able.

*Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Anyoung haseyo, Malo elelei,  
Ni hao, Ohayo gozaimasu, Fakaalofa atu!  
Nau mai, haere mai, welcome!*



### **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a Congregational meeting **today Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September after our worship service**. We would like as many people as possible to attend. We anticipate it will only take around half an hour.

## **\*Call to Worship:**

Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

Better to follow the path of love-light than to be captured by self seeking habits.

Better to live within the way of Jesus than to stumble without direction. In birth and in death, in joy and in struggle, the light of God-love shines and the darkness will never extinguish it.

## **Gathering Prayer:**

E te whanau, community of St Paul's:

We are members of the Body of Christ, pilgrims on the way pioneered by Jesus.

We live and work, pray and rest in New Zealand, a land where Holy Mystery whispers in the forests and roars in the seas.

God is present in the unfolding of the koru,  
**the whistle of wind in the trees, the blueness of the ocean,**  
the grandeur of snow-coated mountain and the call of the tui.  
**Thanks be to God for the beauty that surrounds us.**

Holy Mystery whispers to us through the languages, and smiles of those we meet and those we love.

God is present to us in a nation of many races,  
**many cultures, many faiths and differing traditions.**  
God is present in friendship overcoming difference.  
**Thanks be to God for the beauty of the people who surround us.**

Holy Mystery whispers to us in the story of our nation. God's spirit is ever active to draw us into a future shaped by justice and generosity.  
God is present to us in the memory of days long past,  
**of Tangata Whenua and settlers from many places,**

in hopes embodied in a treaty, in attempts to build a caring community.  
**Thanks be to God, ever troubling us with a dream of what could be.**

Holy mystery whispers to us in the life of the church.  
In times of faithfulness and in times of failure God-spirit continues to move among us.

God is present to us in shared prayer, in scripture springing to life,  
**in new questions and in ancient affirmations,**  
in deepening friendship and in the stillness of this prayerful place.  
**Thanks be to God for all that church means to us and has given us.**

Spirit God, enlighten our imagination and our faith that we may hear  
holy mystery whispering in our forests, roaring in the seas, crying in the  
needs of our neighbour, laughing in the play of children. May our  
worship today be a doorway into Holy Mystery. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:**            **Love's Commitment.**            *(Tune: Morning has broken)*

God, the all holy, Maker and Mother,  
gladly we gather, bringing in prayer  
old hurts for healing, new hopes for holding,  
giving, receiving / loving and care.

Spirit, all seeing, knitting and blending  
joy in desiring, friendship and ease,  
make our belonging loyal and lasting,  
so that our pledging freshens and frees.

Christ, all completing, Nature unfolding,  
evil exhausting in love's embrace,  
weaving and mending, make every ending,  
God's new beginning glowing with grace.

*Words by Brian Wren, Sydney, 1988.*

## Welcome and Notices:

**Reading:** Genesis 2: *the story of the garden and the unwilling gardeners translated by Jewish scholar Robert Alter (selections):*

**Sermon:**

**(Silence for reflection)**

**\*Hymn: God in such love for us.**

*(Tune 'Stewardship' Hymns and Psalms 343i)*

God in such love for us lent us this planet,  
Gave it a purpose in time and in space;  
Small as a spark from the fire of creation,  
cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,  
Life that sustains us in body and mind:  
Plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,  
riches undreamed of to fathom and find.

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;  
Long has earth bowed to the terror of force;  
Long have we wasted what others have need of,  
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.

Earth is the Lord's; it is ours to enjoy it,  
ours, as his stewards, to farm and defend.  
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,  
good Lord deliver us, world without end!

*F Pratt Green.*

**Prayers for Others:**

**Dedication of Ourselves and Our Gifts:**

Loving God you invite us to share in the service of your purposes through the living of our lives, the giving of our gifts, the sharing of our love, our following of Christ.

**Though our gifts be small and the needs of our world so great we trust that in your love they will be enough to make a difference.**

God of all people, creator of a world of different languages and cultures, we offer to you the part we play in the maintenance and enrichment of our national life here in New Zealand.

**Though we are small among the nations, teach us to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.**

**May the Spirit bind us together into a community  
shaped by hospitality,  
strengthened by generosity  
and strong enough to hold us together  
in good times and in bad.**

Lord God, accept who we are and what we have, enlist us in the service of your creating love.

Let us pray for a future shaped by God's love, and a present marked by sharing and forgiveness:

**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.**

## **A Time to Remember and to Release Elizabeth of Windsor**

St Paul's is among the world-encircling web of churches where Queen Elizabeth II has worshipped. She was present at morning worship on the 10th February 1963.

Now it is time for us to share our grief and to join with people throughout the world in committing Elizabeth, Queen and Head of State in New Zealand for 70 years, to the love of God, the love she served throughout her long life.

(stand)

God our Mother, our Father, we pray for the family and friends of Queen Elizabeth, that they may know the comfort of your love.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give us such a vision of your purpose, and such an assurance of your love and power, that we may ever hold fast the hope, which is in Jesus Christ.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We stand within a grieving world and alongside a grieving family, as the body of Elizabeth is committed to be buried.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours.

Elizabeth,

You threw your gifts into the pool of life and you contributed to the healing of the world. You did the tasks that were given to you with

humility and generosity, you listened, you encouraged, you loved and were loved.

You were our Head of State and you contributed to the well being of New Zealand and the Islands of the Pacific.

We release you into the love of God as into the embrace of a friend you served each day of your life.

**Praise be to God, whose love flowed through her, whose love she served, whose love surrounds her. Amen.**

And let us hold in love, King Charles III as he becomes our Head of State.

May he be a wise and generous leader, may he be loved and may he love, may his concern for the environment, his care for the poor and his search for justice continue and flourish. May he, along with Camilla and other members of the royal family, find strength sufficient to fulfil their tasks. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn: The National Anthem**

**E Ihowā Atua,**

*(O Lord God)*

**O ngā iwi mātou rā**

*(of nations and of us too)*

**Āta whakarangona;**

*(Listen to us)*

**Me aroha noa**

*(cherish us)*

**Kia hua ko te pai;**

*(let goodness flourish)*

**Kia tau tō atawhai;**

*(may your blessings flow)*

**Manaakitia mai**

*(defend)*

**Aotearoa**

God of Nations at your feet,  
in the bonds of love we meet,  
hear our voices, we entreat,  
God defend our free land.  
Guard Pacific's triple star  
from the shafts of strife and war,  
make her praises heard afar,  
God defend New Zealand.

Folks of every creed and race,  
gather here before your face,  
asking you to bless this place,  
God defend our free land.  
From dissension, envy, hate,  
and corruption guard our state,  
make our country good and great,  
God defend New Zealand.

These candles that have shared in our worship are extinguished:  
But the light of God-love is alive in us and around us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Blessing:** (A blessing often given at a funeral) .

Go forth into the world in peace, be strong and of good courage, hold fast to that which is good. Love and serve the Lord with singleness of heart rejoicing in the power of the Spirit; and the peace of the Lord be always with you. Amen.



## THIS WEEK'S NOTICES 18th September 2022

### Helping Today

**Greeter:** Rae Wildbore & Margaret Greig

**Offering:** Liz Willis

**Bible Reader:** Michael Hamilton

**Musician:** Dorothy Finlayson

**Flowers:** Rae Wildbore

**Grounds:** Paul Hentschel

### Helping next week Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Greeters:** Bruce & Janice Tucker

**Offering:** Janice Tucker

**Bible Reader:** Anne Loan

**Musician:** Pam Clare

**Flowers:** Pam Clare & Marian Eagle

**Grounds:** Mike & Bev Coghill

### What's On This Week

**Monday** Care and Share in Church Lounge 1.30pm

**Tuesday** Jitterbugs in Church Lounge from 9am.

**Thursday** Prayers in Church & Revelation Studies at 9am.

**Saturday** Napier Repair Café in Asher Hall 11.30am-2.30pm

**Prayer Focus:** Let us pray for: -

- \* Ministry among us: **Jitterbugs**
- \* Partners in God's Mission of Love: **Nourished for Nil**
- \* Partners in the Napier Inner City: **Catholic Parish of Napier**
- \* Parishes in our Presbytery: **Waipukurau**

### Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational meeting **today Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September after our worship service.** We would like as many people as possible to attend. We anticipate it will only take around half an hour.

## Care and Share

Care and Share gathering will be held in the Church lounge tomorrow **Monday, 19th September at 1.30pm**. We will be having an open discussion about what we are looking for in a new Minister and also making a Thrifty Garden Gift from succulents and cacti. All welcome. Any questions phone **Dorothy (06) 8431266**.

## Morning Tea Roster

Help, we need a team of people to be on the morning tea roster. Janice has agreed to coordinate this group, but we need some willing volunteers who are happy to take on serving morning tea after the service. Please speak to Janice or Lynne if you would like to serve the church family in this way

## Napier Food Bank/Nourished for Nil

“Napier Nourished for Nil have almost run out of dry pasta - macaroni elbows. We are also very low on breakfast cereals and **always** need / appreciate toast spreads. We also have a need for paper bags – that would be helpful too. Particularly the medium sized bags people get their groceries delivered in. Thank you again for your wonderful support, we do appreciate all you do for us.”

## Napier Repair Cafe



**NAPIER REPAIR CAFÉ** *An update and appreciation from the August REPAIR*

**CAFÉ** A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with the August Repair Cafe.

Here are the stats:

- 20 amazing volunteers (not including bakers)
- 38 people brought in 67 items for repair
- Of those 67 items, 50 were able to be repaired, that's almost a 75% success rate!! The replacement value of those items would have been approximately \$3,305.

The September Cafe will be this **Saturday 24th of September – 11:30am-2:30pm at Asher Hall.**

## **Bible Readings for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Monday, September 19, 2022:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 9:12-26; Acts 4:1-12

Complementary: Psalm 12; Proverbs 14:12-31; Acts 4:1-12

### **Tuesday, September 20, 2022:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 10:1-16; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Complementary: Psalm 12; Proverbs 17:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

### **Wednesday, September 21, 2022:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 10:17-25; Luke 20:45-21:4

Complementary: Psalm 12; Proverbs 21:10-16; Luke 20:45-21:4

### **Thursday, September 22, 2022:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 23:9-22; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Complementary: Psalm 146; Proverbs 22:2-16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

### **Friday, September 23, 2022:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 23:23-32; Ephesians 2:1-10

Complementary: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10

### **Saturday, September 24, 2022:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 24:1-10; Luke 9:43b-48

Complementary: Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:11-28; Luke 9:43b-48