

St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Napier

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'

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

10:00 am Service led by Rev Keith Rowe

The Feast of St Francis, Sunday 2nd October 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!*



(The candles are lit: symbols of the light of Christ in a world where darkness is ever present)

Gathering Prayer:

God of infinite and deepening love:

May the door of this church be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for friendship.

May it welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture.

May the door of this church be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May its threshold be no stumbling block to young, or straying feet.

May this church be for all who enter, a doorway to richer and more meaningful life.

May the door of this church open to a community shaped by hospitality, strengthened in forgiveness and united in care for one another.

In the spirit of Jesus, may our prayers be enacted among us and within us. Amen.

(Our gathering prayer is adapted from Sabbath Prayers in 'MISHKAN T'FILLAH', a Progressive Jewish Prayer Book. The words become a gift to us from first cousins in faith.)

***Hymn: All creatures of our God and King. (Tune: WOV 3.)**

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up our voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright brother sun with golden beam,
Clear sister moon with softer gleam:
*O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Swift rushing wind, so wild and strong,
High clouds that sail in haven along,
O praise God, alleluia!

New-breaking dawn, in praise rejoice,
And lights of evening find a voice:

Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Fire, with your flames so fierce and bright,
Giving to all both warmth and light:

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds God's blessings on our way,
O praise God, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
Let them God's glory also show:

And all who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others take your part,
O praise God, alleluia!
All who long pain or sorrow bear,
Praise God and on her cast your care:

Let all things their creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:

Attributed to Saint Francis

Welcome and Notices.

Prayer for the day:

All loving God, You are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour upon us the energy of your love,

that we may protect life and beauty.

**Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one. Amen.**

Reading 1: Psalm 100

This psalm has been a reminder to worshippers across the centuries that whether life be good to us or difficult, filled with joy or despair, we are embraced by God-love, a love that endures forever. It is the simple yet profound background to all that happens.

Reading 2: Matthew 6:24- 34

At the heart of the Way pioneered by Jesus is an invitation to live simply, placing people before money, compassion before status, care for creation before personal wealth, love of peace before patriotic posturing. So simple – yet so difficult to pursue in our overly complicated, power seeking and confusing world.

***Hymn: For the fruits of all creation.**

(Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos ('All through the night.') CH4 #562))

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon: Saint Francis and the Franciscan spirit.

***Hymn: Today we all are called to be disciples.**

(Voices United 507) Tune: Kingsfold, WOV 500.

Today we are all called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captives free,
make plough-share out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
we sow not peace but strife,
our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.

For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.

As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

Prayers for Our World.

Followed by The Lord's Prayer sung (WOV 676.)

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, holy be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not put us to the test, but deliver us from evil,
for the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. AMEN.*

Offering:

***Hymn: Lord make us servants of your peace.**

(CH4 # 527, Tune: O Waly Waly.)

Lord, make us servants of your peace:
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
to wake at last in heaven's light.

Attributed to Saint Francis.

The Blessing:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
We who seek this Kingdom walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
In times of sadness, we walk in the footprints of Jesus.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Humility and gentleness are footprints of Jesus.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Our yearning for goodness to prevail is a footprint of Jesus.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Care for the needy is a footprint of Jesus.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

The footprints of Jesus are signs of God-love in a broken world.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

May the whole world be covered with the fingerprints of Jesus the peacemaker.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.

**Spirit - God, take us by the hand and lead us into the footprints of Jesus
Amen.**

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THIS WEEK'S NOTICES 2nd October 2022

Helping Today

Greeter: Marion Fell & Ella Haigh

Offering: Helen McClymont

Bible Reader: Marion Fell

Musician: Dorothy Finlayson

Morning Tea: Janice Tucker

Flowers: Alison Hancock

Grounds: Bruce Tucker

Helping next week Sunday 9th October 2022

Greeters: Elaine Brown & Christine Woodward

Offering: Sylvia Low

Bible Reader: Brenda Silson

Musician: Pam Clare

Flowers: Grace Moore & Rae Wildbore

Grounds: Lynne & Murray Arnold

What's On This Week

Tuesday Anne Burden Funeral at 11am in the Church.

Friday Parish Lunch at Thirsty Whale, at 12 noon.

Prayer Focus: Let us pray for: -

- * Ministry among us: **Bible Readers**
- * Partners in God's Mission of Love: **Napier Family centre**
- * Partners in the Napier Inner City: **Trinity Methodist Church**
- * Parishes in our Presbytery: **St Columba's Havelock North**

Death of a dear St Paul's parishioner

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Anne Burden this week. Anne will be sorely missed by all who knew her and she was a committed member of the church choir. Anne's funeral will take place this Tuesday 4th October here at St Paul's Church starting at 11am.

Parish Lunch Group

The next lunch group will meet at **The Thirsty Whale**, Ahuriri at Noon this **Friday 7th October**. Names to **Jill** please at **027 342 1282 or 835 4656** by Thursday morning 6th Oct.

Service of Thanks and AGM

We will take time to thank God for all the ways He has blessed us at our **10am service on Sunday, 30th October**. The service will be followed by the AGM. Please put a circle around the date in your calendar and commit to sharing a special time together.

Morning Tea Roster

A decision has been to have morning tea on **the first Sunday of each month**. This eases the burden on people helping out on the roster. Thanks to Janice who is helping out today after the service. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to be on the roster. **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 are very low on instant coffee and toast spreads. We also use a lot of snack or sandwich sized Ziploc bags, if people wanted to donate those in lieu of food. Please note we no longer need egg cartons; we have a huge supply in storage. Thank you.”

Bible Readings for Monday 3rd October – Saturday 8th October

Monday, October 3, 2022:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 137; Lamentations 1:16-22; James 1:2-11

Complementary: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 1:5-17; James 1:2-11

Tuesday, October 4, 2022:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 137; Lamentations 2:13-22; 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21

Complementary: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:5-11; 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21

Wednesday, October 5, 2022:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 137; Lamentations 5:1-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

Complementary: Psalm 3; Habakkuk 2:12-20; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

Thursday, October 6, 2022:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 25:1-14; 2 Timothy 1:13-18

Complementary: Psalm 111; Leviticus 14:33-53; 2 Timothy 1:13-18

Friday, October 7, 2022:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 27:1-22; 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Complementary: Psalm 111; Numbers 4:34-5:4; 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Saturday, October 8, 2022:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 28:1-17; Luke 5:12-16

Complementary: Psalm 111; Numbers 12:1-15; Luke 5:12-16