

## 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 Adair Oosterbroek  
***Advent 1, Sunday 27th November, 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!*



**"So always be ready."**

- Matthew 24:42-44 NLT -

### Welcome and Notices

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

The Lord is getting us ready to receive a gift of great joy.

***Watch for this gift!***

Be vigilant and ready. For the gift is about to come.

***The promise of God is faithful and trustworthy.***

Watch, wait. The Gift is coming into the world!

***Praise be to God for such lavish love.***

***AMEN.***

**Lighting the Advent candle** - the first candle is the **HOPE** candle

As we light our advent candle

*Light of the world, shine on us.*

As we prepare for Christmas time

*Light of the world, shine on us.*

In this world of pain and darkness,

*Light of the world, shine through us.*

To all the people who don't know you,

*Light of the world, shine through us.*

Jesus you are coming again,

*Light of the world, light the way.*

In our service here today

*Light of the world, light the way.*

**\*Hymn:**            **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** (*WOV 200*)

**Opening Prayer + Prayer of Confession**

**Old Testament Reading:**    Isaiah 2:1-5

**Reading from the Epistles:**    Romans 13:11-14 (The Message)

**\*Hymn:**            **Come Jesus, Prince of Peace** (video)

**Gospel Reading:**            Matthew 24:36-44 (video)

**Address: What does it mean to be ready?**    Adair

**\*Hymn: Come Now Where We Least Expect You**

1. Come now where we least expect you,  
Christ our hope and longing, come.  
Show us where we still reject you  
in the world you made your home.  
Look around!  
Christ is found  
far beyond our sacred ground.

2. Come where we have tried to own you  
locked within the distant past,  
where your church has scarcely known you,  
where the least remain the last.  
Enter still  
where you will,  
come to challenge and fulfil.

3. Christ-child, come in loving kindness;  
come, great Judge whom angels praise!  
heal us of our pride and blindness,  
purge our hearts and change our ways.  
God's own Word,  
love outpoured,  
come to us, O Christ our Lord

***Advent Creed***

***We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.***  
The one who is full of patience,  
***who is not afraid of silence,***  
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.  
***The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,***  
and who does not jostle for attention.

***We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation,***  
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,  
***who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,***  
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,  
***who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,***  
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,  
***whose silence overpowered their words,***  
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

***We believe in God the Holy Spirit,***  
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,  
***sometimes arriving with obvious power,***  
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

***We believe in one God***  
who patiently waits for us,  
***and who longs for us to do the same.***

**Prayers of Intercession** *followed by the Lord's Prayer - you can use this version or the one  
dearest to you.*

...Come Lord Jesus, ***and hear our prayer.***

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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.***  
***Save us from the time of trial***  
***and deliver us from evil,***  
***for the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours***  
***Now and forever. AMEN.***

**Offering:**

*Thank you for the opportunity  
to give these gifts for your ministry,  
that together we might help the world  
be ready to receive the Prince of Peace,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.*

**\*Hymn:        King of Kings (video)**

## **Benediction**

*What time is it?*

The hour has come to wake from your slumber!

*What time is it?*

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

*What time is it?*

Time to put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

*What time is it?*

Time to go out, clothed with Christ.

*Amen*

## **Now As We Go**

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