

# St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Napier.

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'

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

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024**

**Easter Sunday**

**10am Service** *led by Rev Keith Rowe*

*Music led by Pam Clare*

## **Welcome and Notices:**

Let there be light in our darkened world.

May Christ-love shine wherever the hope of the poor is denied,  
wherever violence banishes peace,  
wherever division destroys community.

Light a candle: Christ is risen, **death does not hold him,**

Light a candle: Christ is risen, **he is within us and ahead of us.**

Light a candle: Christ is risen, **he journeys with us through the darkness.**

Light a candle: Christ is risen, **he is love reaching toward a new future.**

Christ is risen, **Alleluia.** Christ is risen, **Alleluia.**

**May the light of Christ burn in our hearts, in this church,  
and in the deeds of good people everywhere.**

**\*Hymn:** Christ is alive (CH4: 416)

## **Readings for Easter Day:**

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11.

*Paul apparently knew nothing of the parable of the empty Easter tomb but he sensed the presence of Jesus and the truth of the Way Jesus pioneered. It was as though Jesus was present among them even though they knew of his cruel death at the hands of Roman rulers. Roman law considered Jesus and his dreams of a new society to be finished. Paul and others asserted the hopes Jesus shared were just beginning.*

Mark 16:1-8

*Matthew, Luke and John conclude their Jesus books with colourful tales of an empty tomb and of encounters with Jesus who they knew had been crucified. Mark has a briefer tale to tell and it ends on a surprising note: those who were first aware of the continuing presence and possibility of Jesus fled for they were 'afraid.' So puzzled were the first readers of Mark at this unexpected remark that an expansion of the resurrection story was added later to bring Mark into line with the more expansive tales told by the other Gospel writers.*

**\*Hymn:**     Now the Green Blade Rises     (CH4: 417)

**Sermon:**     “A judgement for death and a parable of life”

**\*Hymn:**     Christ has risen while earth slumbers     (CH4: 430) *Tune: Austria*

*The Peace:*

We many as we are, are one body in Christ.

**We breathe the same air; we enjoy the same sunshine,**

**We share the hope of a peaceful and just future for all humanity.**

The peace of God be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Greet those around you. The words, ‘**The peace of God be with you....**’ are appropriate.)*

*(The offering, along with bread and wine, is brought forward.)*

Loving God, through your goodness

we have this bread and wine to offer,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

Made one in Christ and one with each other

**we offer these gifts and with them we offer our prayers**

**for our world:**

Let us hold in love...

The prayer of Jesus:

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.**

*(Stand)*

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Love of God surrounds us, empowers us and beckons us.

Let us give God thanks and praise.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is always right in all times and places  
to give thanks to God, Holy wisdom and Eternal love,  
**present in every one we meet and wherever we are.**

**Your love is in the air we breathe, in the hands that hold us, the peace shaped  
dreams that call us.**

We walk through the beauties of creation and even in times when nature seems to be  
angry, we see signs of your love.

In the struggles and joys of those we meet we find hints of your presence.

Touched by goodness and imagination we sense the whisper of your love.

You open our eyes to the needs of our world,

You remind us that every person matters,

**that every loving deed, every love shaped prayer,  
contributes to the building of your world.**

We give thanks for Jesus in whose spirit all things are made new,  
who walked the human journey bearing the pain of human struggle.

We recall with gratitude his care for the poor, his vision of what life could become.

We give thanks that not even death, violence and greed,  
could diminish his hopes for humanity.

**His love lives on in the compassion and courage of people everywhere.**

As she once brooded over the waters of the deep,

Your Spirit now holds creation together within a single web of creative love,

**drawing us toward a time when creation's promise will be fulfilled.**

Therefore, with the whole creation;  
with all your people gathered across time and space,  
with those, of many faiths and many cultures,  
with all who are servants of love and builders of peace,  
with all the wonder of creation,  
with galaxies in an expanding cosmos,  
with everything visible and invisible,  
imagined and not yet dreamed,  
we join in creation's praise:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of enduring love,  
Heaven and earth are full of your grace.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is Jesus who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died, on the evening of betrayal,  
Jesus took bread, broke it and said:  
"This is my body which is for you.  
Do this to remember me."  
In the same way, also the cup after supper saying:  
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me."

Send your Holy Spirit, O God that these gifts may be for us  
reminders of your gift of new creation in Christ.  
Shape us into one body, press us into one wine,  
bake us into one bread - the bread of life.

*(sit)*

### Breaking of the bread

Christ is the bread of life,  
**Bringer of healing and wholeness.**

Christ is the cup of hope,  
**Wellspring of resurrection life.**

*(We gather at the table in groups of about 15. Having received the bread and wine each group will wait for a brief blessing.)*

**\*Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace**  
(CH4: 527, Tune: *O Waly Waly*.)

### Affirmation of Faith

As we go, let us confess the faith within which we live, the belief that gives direction to our living:

Do you believe in God, the author of life?

**We live within the love of God, creative energy at the heart of life, river of life in which we live and move and have our being.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the true and living way?

**We live within the way of Jesus. We are allowing his compassion, his forgiving love and his generous hospitality to grow in us.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, God present within the human family?

**We live within the Holy Spirit. In the Spirit we are held together in community and in care for one another.**

**Amen.**

### **The Blessing:**

The blessings of God,  
The blessings of good neighbours and friends,  
The blessing of those we love and cherish,  
The blessing of sea and sky,  
Be with each of us this week.

**Give thanks to the God of goodness,  
For God is lasting love.**

## THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

### Helping Today

**Greeters:** Jill McConnochie & Margaret Greig

**Offering:** Liz Willis

**Bible Readers:** Marian Eagle

**Music:** Pam Clare

**Flowers:** Pam Clare & Marian Eagle

**Grounds:** Murray & Lynne Arnold

### Helping next week 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Greeters:** Kerry & Penny Marshall

**Offering:** Janice Tucker

**Bible Reader:** Jill McConnochie

**Music:** Dorothy Finlayson

**Flowers:** Pam Clare

**Grounds:** Paul Hentschel

### Prayer Focus:

Let us pray for: -

- \* Ministry among us: **Ministry Settlement Board**
- \* Partners in God's Mission of Love: **Chaplaincy**
- \* Partners in the Napier Inner City: **All churches serving our city**
- \* Parishes in our Presbytery: **Mangapapa Union**

### Remember Daylight Saving ends next weekend

This is just a reminder that by the time we meet next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April for Café Church in the lounge, the clocks will have gone backwards one hour.

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday 7th April

At our last Parish Council meeting we talked about how we can best fill the pulpit each Sunday. It was decided that on **the 1st Sunday of each month** we would hold **one service only**, and this will be in the **lounge**. It will be a more **informal (Cafe style) service**, making it less intimidating for ordinary lay people to lead the worship. We hope you will come along and enjoy this time of worship and fellowship.

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.00am

There will be a combined service at Trinity Methodist. There will be no service at St Paul's on that day.

## Thursday morning prayer time

At our Parish Council meeting, we discussed ways that we can begin to prepare for the new ministry here at St Paul's. It was decided praying together is one of the best things we can do. Starting on **21<sup>st</sup> March**, we will meet together at **9.00am each Thursday morning** to pray for our church now and for the wider church in Hawkes Bay. We look forward to having as many of you as possible join us.

## Parish Directory

We are in the process of putting together a newly updated directory. Can you please let us know if you have changed numbers or address in recent times. A lot of people no longer have their landlines and now have mobile phones instead. Please contact **Bridget** at the church office **(06) 835 5359** or [stpaulsnapier@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsnapier@gmail.com) confirming the information you would like included in the directory. Many thanks.

## **Nourished for Nil:**

Nourished for Nil is very grateful for your donations to the Napier branch. We are currently short of toothbrushes, and toothpaste, as well as sweet biscuits. However, any food items are always important and contribute to helping those who have very little food to feed their families. Richard Loan for Nourished for Nil.

## **Bible Readings for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

### **Monday, April 1, 2024:**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:1-19; 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

### **Tuesday, April 2, 2024:**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Genesis 1:20-2:4a; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

### **Wednesday, April 3, 2024:**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Song of Solomon 3:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

### **Thursday, April 4, 2024:**

Psalm 133; Daniel 1:1-21; Acts 2:42-47

### **Friday, April 5, 2024:**

Psalm 133; Daniel 2:1-23; Acts 4:23-31

### **Saturday, April 6, 2024:**

Psalm 133; Daniel 2:24-49; John 12:44-50