

St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Napier.

'Partners in God's Mission'
'We celebrate life in Christ'

Sunday 27th October, 2024

10am Service

led by Mark Johnston & Carolyn Kelly

Music by Dorothy Finlayson

GATHERING:

God calls us together in worship as part of Christ's family

Welcome and Notices:

Call to Worship:

E te whanau at te Karaiti, O family of Christ
In the Gospels, Jesus asked a number of times
What do you want me to do for you?

Lord Jesus Christ, before we leave this place

Can you remind us you are here amongst us?

before we leave this place

Can you make a way through our doubts and confusion?

before we leave this place

Can you help us to see possibilities, new beginnings?

before we leave this place

Can you restore our hope?

We Sing: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven (CH4 160)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

Who like me his praise should sing.
Praise O! Praise God!
Praise the everlasting King!

Parentlike God tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise O! Praise God!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Praise O! Praise God!
Praise the high eternal One

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise O! Praise God!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Prayer:

HEARING: *We hear from the life-giving Word of God*

Reading 1: *Psalm 126.*

Reading 2: *Mark 10: 46-52*

For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God

We Sing: We Cannot Measure How you Heal (CH4 718)

We cannot measure how you heal
Or answer every sufferer's prayer.
Yet we believe your grace responds
Where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
Survive to hold and heal and warn,
To carry all through death to life
And cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,
The guilt that clings from things long past,
The fear of what the future holds,
Are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
The hurt we never hoped to find,
The private agonies inside,
The memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help
And some have come to make amends.
As hands which shaped and saved the work,
Are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
To mend the body, mind and soul,
To disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.

Message:

RESPONDING: *We respond to God's Word to us in Christ*

Responsive Prayer Activity:

Music. Psalm 126 by BiFrost Arts (feat. Molly Parden). 2016

Offerings:

Note: Cash offerings and envelopes can be deposited in the receptacles on the way into worship on Sunday. Details for giving through bank transfer or automatic payment are available at the end of this bulletin. Food item donations for the Nourish for Nil foodbank are also collected in the basket on your way into the church. If you are visiting do not feel under any obligation to give.

SENDING: *We are sent to continue to be Christ's body in the world*

We Sing: Be Thou my vision (CH4 465)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, thine own I would be;
Thou in me dwelling and I one with Thee.

Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, after victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Blessing and Sending:

Thought for the Week

Walter Bruggeman says “Hope is a human act of commitment to and investment in the future. Hope is an act of human courage that refuses to cherish the present too much or be reduced to despair by present circumstances. Hope is the capacity to relinquish the present for the sake of what is imagined to be a reachable future...”

Like the Psalmist we can have confidence in God’s restorative capacity, which is indeed a gift from God. Yet this is not to imagine a future of simply reforming and improving established systems, putting things back to what they once were. Our task in imagining and acting towards the future is to be sure of God’s resolve and God’s summons to yield justice, foolishly forgive, practice outrageous generosity and elaborate hospitality.

Prayer Pointers

1. We pray for ourselves: that our hope may be kindled and our actions may align with the future God is summoning us to.
2. We cry out for God’s mercy in the midst of extreme despair and destruction in Gaza and Lebanon and the hopelessness imposed on Palestinians. We lament the ongoing fear, trauma, hostage situation and recycling violence that is driving Israel and those seeking to take advantage of this war to more and more desperate means.
3. We pray for this congregation and its leaders: for wisdom to discern and lead according to the priorities of the Kingdom of God and the living Christ.

Morning Tea is available following worship. Feel free to stay and meet others, whether new or regularly here.

Are you new here? If this is your first time in church or you have not been to St Paul's for some time, feel free to let us know. If you have questions or find yourself on a spiritual search and would like someone from the church to make contact, email Mark & Carolyn on markkcm1@gmail.com or Bridget at the church office: stpaulsnapier@gmail.com

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

Serving Today

Greeters: Jill McConnochie & Margaret Greig

Offering: Helen McClymont

Bible Reader: Meg Sillay

Music: Dorothy Finlayson

Flowers: Eleanor Holmes & Yvonne Dickson

Grounds: Bev & Mike Coghill

Serving next service, 3rd Nov 2024

Greeters: Kerry & Penny Marshall

Offering: Sylvia Low

Bible Reader: Sylvia Low

Music: Pam Clare

Flowers: Pam Clare

Grounds: Bruce Tucker

Upcoming Events:

Sunday 3rd Nov 11.30am: St Paul's AGM directly after the Sunday service. Reports available from the foyer table.

Nourished For Nil thank you for your support. We are currently short of breakfast cereals, tinned fish, and all types of spreads-jam, peanut butter, vegemite, honey. Any donations are gratefully accepted. *Richard Loan, for NFN*



Wednesday Flower MarketThe weekly flower market has resumed after the Winter break in **St Paul's foyer** each **Wednesday** morning from **7.30am to 9.30am.**

Pre-Christmas Fellowship The Pastoral Care group is looking forward to hosting an afternoon for congregational members on **Friday 15th November at 2pm in the church lounge.** See inside today's bulletin. There will be a quiz, music and afternoon tea. The acceptance form is on the bottom of your invitation and can be placed in the box on the foyer table. Transport is available.

St Paul's Thursday Prayer-time 9am

Our weekly prayer group continues to meet on **Thursday mornings at 9am** in the Church to pray about various issues, for others and the new ministry that will shape St Paul's for the future. All are welcome.

Highland Heroes Concert – Sunday 3rd November - 2pm. The Salvation Army Citadel, Tait Drive, Greenmeadows. Napier Pipe Band, Napier Technical Memorial Band, & Schools Napier Tech Junior Band, perform Highland Heroes, a concert paying tribute to the armed forces, as we approach Armistice Day. Tickets \$15 at the door - EFTPOS will be available.

Copies of Sermons

Copies of the last two weeks' sermons are available on the foyer table. Help yourself.

Bible Readings Mon 28th Oct to Sat 2nd Nov 2024

Monday, October 28, 2024:

Psalm 28; Isaiah 59:9-19; 1 Peter 2:1-10;

Tuesday, October 29, 2024:

Psalm 28; Ezekiel 18:1-32; Acts 9:32-35;

Wednesday, October 30, 2024:

Psalm 28; Ezekiel 14:12-23; Matthew 20:29-34;

Thursday, October 31, 2024:

Psalm 146; Ruth 1:18-22; Hebrews 9:1-12;

Friday, November 1, 2024:

Psalm 146; Ruth 2:1-9 ; Romans 3:21-31;

Saturday, November 2, 2024:

Psalm 146; Ruth 2:10-14; Luke 10:25-37;

Check out <https://pray-as-you-go.org> for a 15-minute guided prayer reflection on a Scripture of the day. Downloadable as an app for your phone.

**For any giving and donations to St Paul's Presbyterian Church:
Our Bank Account is 02 0700 00131 01 00**

Contact Information:

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