

St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Napier.

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'

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

Sunday 29th September, 2024

10am Service *led by Rev Keith Rowe*

Music led by Dorothy Finlayson

Welcome and Notices:

Call to Worship:

Gathering Affirmation:

Dear friends, fellow pilgrims on the path pioneered by Jesus,
Hear again these words of Jesus: "The most important of the
commandments are these:

you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and you shall
love your neighbour as yourself." (*Mark 12:30-31.*)

We are learning to love God with all our heart:

We live within the love of God and God's love is within us.

We are learning to love God with all our soul:

**God is present within the folds of life, in times of fulfillment
and in times of struggle.**

We are learning to love God with all our mind:

**Though God is mystery beyond the reach of human words, God
is present in all our wondering, all our searching.**

We are learning to love God with all our strength:
**In the strength of youth and in the weakness of mature years,
God is the energy of life in us and around us.**

We are learning to love our neighbour as ourself;
**Whoever we meet is a gift to be treasured, a companion to walk
with and to learn from.**

We are called to a journey, in God, for God, in the world, for the
world.

In strength and in weakness we are servants of God's creative love.

***HYMN: God in such love for us (CH4 240)**

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!

Fred Pratt Green.

Prayer for the Day:

God of all wisdom and of generous love,
you brought the church into being
that it may be a sign of your love for humanity,
**grant that we and the whole church may have courage
to learn afresh how to serve your love
and to walk in the way pioneered by Jesus.**
In the spirit of Jesus we pray, Amen.

The Readings:

Mark 4: 26-34

The gospel of Mark was written as a guide for those seeking to follow the Way pioneered by Jesus. In later years people were concerned about the progress and growth of the church. Mark, however, does not speak of the church but of the Kingdom of God, an energy of love that bubbles away within life, bringing life and peace, justice and mercy to birth within the human family. It is like an easily overlooked mustard seed that grows, not to dominate but to give shelter and hope to those for whom life is tough.

2 Corinthians 4:5- 11; 16-18.

The letters of Paul were treasured in the early church because they were reminders of how the Way of Jesus made its way in the Roman Empire and how an early church leader expressed the faith and encouraged those gripped by the Way pioneered by Jesus. In our reading Paul encourages what was a small group in Corinth not to give up but to live in the light that flows from Jesus even though they live in dark times and the future is uncertain. He encourages them not to lose heart but to live within the enduring love of God.

***Hymn: Great and deep the Spirit's purpose.**

(CH4 617: Tune Hyfrydol)

Marnie Barrell envisages the Way of Jesus being like an unfolding piece of art with each age uncovering fresh meaning, fresh colours, fresh possibilities in ancient words and in spirited living.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
hidden now in mystery;
nature bursts with joyful promise,
ripe with what is yet to be.
In a wealth of rich invention,
still the work of art unfolds -
barely have we seen, and faintly,
what God's great salvation holds.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
making Jesus seen and heard.
Every age of God's creation
grasps new meanings from the Word.
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us
your new work begun today;
eyes and ears and hearts are open,
teach us what to do and say.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
all God's children brought to birth,
freed from hunger, fear and evil
every corner of the earth.
And a million, million voices
speak with joy the Saviour's name;
every face reflects his image,
never any two the same.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
nothing shall be left to chance.

All that lives will be united
in the everlasting dance.

All fulfilled and all perfected,
each uniquely loved and known,
Christ in glory unimagined
once for all receives his own.

Marnie Barrell.

Reflection: The Temple is gone and new possibilities beckon

***Hymn:** He came singing love. (WOV 636)

For Colin Gibson, Jesus is a Way to be followed rather than a doctrine to be believed. Our belief is our walking the Way pioneered by Jesus: the way of love, faith, hope and peace. In each generation we must rediscover what it means to live these qualities into life.

He came singing Love and he lived singing love;
he died, singing love,
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;
he died, singing faith.
He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;
he died, singing hope.
He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
he died, singing peace.
He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on
we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

Colin Gibson

The Offering:

Prayers for the world, for our families and for our neighbours.

The prayer of Jesus *(WOV 676)*

Our Father in heaven,
holy be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as 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 for ever, Amen x8.

***Hymn: Faith has set us on a journey.**

(Tune: Marching, WOV 110.)

Shirley Murray recognises the very humanity of the church - fragile, yearning for comfort yet held within a challenging love, not strong yet with gifts yet to be unpacked, realistic yet shaped by hope.

Faith has set us on a journey
past the landmarks that we know,
taking risks with no insurance
but the Word that tells us "go!"

Friend or job or home or lover
we may need to leave behind,
outworn truths and ways of thinking,
baggage to the past consigned.

Some are swags of easy conscience
who with others hitch a ride,
some are tourist-package Christians,
dollar-safe, with Book and guide.

There are others on this journey --
those who long and pray and search,
heave the stones to free the structures,
love the Christ and leave the Church.
We are this unlikely people
in the Body knit as one,

company of clowns and cripples --
some are wise and some can run.

Prophets are our travel agents,
gospel-makers lay this road:
to the place of peace and promise
faith will take us into God.

Shirley Murray

Prayers for our church and for the city of Napier:

The Blessing:

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

Helping Today

Greeters: Janice & Bruce Tucker

Offering: Helen McClymont

Bible Reader: Kerry Marshall

Music: Dorothy Finlayson

Flowers: Pam Clare and Marian Eagle

Grounds: Mike & Bev Coghill

Helping for Thanks service, 6th October 2024

Greeters: Marion Fell & Ella Haigh

Offering: Sylvia Low

Bible Readers: Bruce Tucker

Music: Pam Clare

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: **Hospital Chaplaincy**
- * Partners in the Napier Inner City: **All Napier churches**
- * Parishes in our Presbytery: **Mangapapa Union**

Parish Lunch

Parish lunch group will meet at **ROAM, 189 Marine Parade** (one of the six sisters) **at noon on Friday 4th October.**

New members are welcome to join the group. Please **contact Jill 027 342 1282** if you would like to attend. Thank you.

Induction for Rev Dr Mark Johnston and Rev Dr Carolyn Kelly:

A reminder that **all parishioners** are invited to the Induction for our new ministers Mark and Carolyn on **Thursday 10th October, 4pm.** If you have not already done so, **please let the office know if you are able to attend.** Please bring along a pot-luck fingerfood item. Thank You.

Pantry items for new ministers

We thought it would be nice to contribute to Mark and Carolyn's kitchen. We have started **collecting non-perishable pantry items** for when they arrive in October. Please bring any items in the next week. A basket is in the Church foyer on each Sunday.

Service of Thanksgiving

Service of Thanksgiving and **Thank offering** will be held on **Sunday 6th October at 10.00am.**

St Paul's Weekly Prayer time

As you may be aware, a weekly prayer group meets on **Thursday mornings at 9am** in the Church to pray about various issues. Our main focus is preparing for the arrival of Mark and Carolyn and the new ministry that will shape St Paul's for the future. All are welcome.

Eco Corner

“It is estimated that one-third of all reef-building corals, a third of all fresh-water molluscs, a third of sharks and rays, a quarter of all mammals, a fifth of all reptiles, and a sixth of all birds are headed toward oblivion.”

Elizabeth Kolbert, The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, 2014.

Bible Readings for Monday 30th September to Saturday 5th October 2024

Monday, September 30, 2024:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 140; Esther 4:1-17; 1 Peter 1:3-9;

Complementary: Psalm 5; Zechariah 6:9-15; 1 Peter 1:3-9;

Tuesday, October 01, 2024:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 140; Esther 5:1-14; 1 John 2:18-25;

Complementary: Psalm 5; Zechariah 8:18-23; 1 John 2:18-25;

Wednesday, October 02, 2024:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 140; Esther 8:1-17; Matthew 18:6-9;

Complementary: Psalm 5; Zechariah 10:1-12; Matthew 18:6-9;

Thursday, October 03, 2024:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 26; Job 2:11-3:26; Galatians 3:23-29;

Complementary: Psalm 8; Genesis 20:1-18; Galatians 3:23-29;

Friday, October 04, 2024:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 26; Job 4:1-21; Romans 8:1-11;

Complementary: Psalm 8; Genesis 21:22-34; Romans 8:1-11;

Saturday, October 05, 2024:

Semi-continuous: Psalm 26; Job 7:1-21; Luke 16:14-18;

Complementary: Psalm 8; Genesis 23:1-20; Luke 16:14-18;