

St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Napier.

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'

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

Pentecost 12

Sunday 11th August, 2024

10am Service *led by Rev Keith Rowe*

Music led by Dorothy Finlayson

Welcome, News & Notices

Gathering Prayer: *(Adapted from the Morning Liturgy of The Iona Community.)*

In the beginning before time, before people, before the world began,
God was – **God was Love seeking form, present in every
emerging atom.**

Here and now, among us, beside us, enlisting us as servants of love in
our emerging world,
God is – **God is hidden in the thoughts and deeds of each of us.**

In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has
found its fulfillment,
God will be – **God will be holding all humanity in love that never
ends.**

God was, God is, God will be: Not denying the world, but delighting

in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it through Jesus Christ and in the energy of the Spirit, whose living presence we affirm as we gather:

God was, God is, God will be.

God's love and mercy lasts forever,

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

***Hymn** **Come and find the quiet centre**

1. Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:

there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Prayer for the day

Creating and ever - present God: from a world awash with violence and lies, we pause to say our prayers, to redirect our ambitions and our living, to ask afresh what it means to live within the Way of Jesus. May we, bound together as a company of your people, different in so many ways but each of us seeking to live life well and within your love, be made strong as we worship.

We give thanks for this time together. We give thanks for those who across the decades prayed faith into these walls, served you faithfully and helped build the community that is Napier.

Amen.

Readings:

Amos:10-15, 21-24, 8:4-6

Amos was a prophet in Israel about 700 years before the time of Jesus. Like all the enduring prophets Amos was a truth teller. He saw the injustices present in his society and he gave words to what he saw and felt. He refused to be quiet when he saw how strongly injustice was woven into the economic system of his day. He was impatient with pious people who went through the motions of religion but had no care for the needy and those crippled by injustice. The powerful of his day sought to silence him but his words continue to echo down the ages. These ancient words seem as relevant today as when they were first spoken.

Matthew 25:14-30

The parable of the Talents has in recent centuries been read as an encouragement to invest one's gifts wisely and with an eye to a good profit, to make money or to find comfort. (The 'capitalist' interpretation.) The word 'talent' is commonly understood as a reference to what someone is good at, one's gifts – but in New Testament times the word 'talent' referred only to a large amount of money, the sort of money only the very wealthy had access to. It's a parable about truth telling and being ready to pay whatever price or punishment is meted out to truth tellers by those who wield power in society.

***Hymn 'Tis winter now**

(Tune O Waly Waly)

1. 'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
has left the heavens all coldly clear;
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
and all the earth lies dead and drear.
2. And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
God's life within the keen air breathes;
God's beauty paints the crimson dawn,
and clothes each branch with glittering wreaths.
3. And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
home closer draws her circle now,
and warmer glows her light within.
4. O God, you give the winter's cold,
as well as summer's joyous rays,
you warmly in your love enfold,
and keep us through life's wintry days.

Reflection: Playing by the “rules” or naming “Truth”?

***Hymn** **Who would true valour see**

(WOV 467)

1. Who would true valour see,
let them come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather;
there's no discouragement
shall make us once relent
our first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

2. Whoso beset them round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound,
our strength the more is.
No lion can us fright:
we'll with a giant fight,
and we will have the right
to be a pilgrim.

- 3 Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt our spirit;
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, fly away;
we'll not fear what they say;
we'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

Offering

Prayers for the world

Followed by 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....

Here, God, we give our gifts to the work of your church, for the encouragement of your people, and with the love of Christ in our hearts. Bless our offerings and our service, we pray in Christ's name. Amen

***Hymn For the music of creation**

(WOV 374i)

1. For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice --
music is your art, your glory,

let the human heart rejoice!

2. Psalms and symphonies exalt you,
drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging,
carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and lovesong
catching heaven in a note.

3. All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise, and dancing feet;
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease.

BLESSING:

Loving God, open our hearts, so that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.

Unclench our hands **so we may reach out to one another, and touch and be healed.**

Open our lips **so we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.**

Unclog our ears **to hear the pain of and joys of our neighbours.**

Open our eyes, **so we may see Christ in friend and stranger.**

Breath your Spirit into us, and touch us with the life of Christ. **Amen.**

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

Helping Today

Greeters: Penny & Kerry Marshall

Offering: Sylvia Low

Bible Readers: Janice Tucker

Music: Dorothy Finlayson

Flowers: Marian Eagle

Grounds: Bruce Tucker

Helping next week 18th August 2024

Greeters: Bruce & Janice Tucker

Offering: Liz Willis

Bible Readers: Michael Hamilton

Music: Pam Clare

Flowers: Alison & Bill Hancock

Grounds: Murray & Lynne Arnold

Prayer Focus:

Let us pray for: -

- * Ministry among us: **Grounds teams**
- * Partners in God's Mission of Love: **Napier Foodbank**
- * Partners in the Napier Inner City: **St John's**
- * Parishes in our Presbytery: **St Andrew's Hastings**

Reports for AGM Meeting:

It is that time of year again!

If you are involved with a church group it is time to start thinking about your report for the AGM. The AGM date will be confirmed soon. Please send a Word copy of your report to the office by the 25th August. Thank you

Recycling of Soft Plastics:

In the foyer/hallway there is now a bin for soft plastics. You may bring your **clean and dry** soft plastics from home, if it is easier for you than returning them to the supermarket.

Richard will then deliver them for us.

Eco Corner

Can you relate to having to clear away rubbish from the past?

How are you doing this (either literally or symbolically):

in your personal life? In our church?

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.

Care and Share

Our group will be gathering on Monday 19th August.

Dominie is a Police Officer from the Napier Police Station and will be attending to talk to us about Safety.

Do join us at 1.30 for the talk, fun and fellowship. A cuppa will follow. Please remember the sales table. All welcome

Dorothy (for the group)

Combined HB Pressies Service: Big Spring Sing

On 25th August we are joining with the other Presbyterian Congregations for our service at St Andrew's Hastings @ 10.00am.

We will arrange transport for all those who would like to attend.

There will be a sheet in the foyer for you to put your name on if you would like a ride, or if you can help with transport. Hopefully we can

all attend and enjoy this time of shared worship. You are invited to bring some cut flowers from your garden on the day so that we can create together a wonderful big bouquet.

There will not be a service here at St Paul's that day.



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

Mark and Carolyn's induction will be held on 10th October (Thursday), 4.00pm, followed by a potluck meal. Keep the date free.

Men's Breakfast:

Saturday 31st August at St Columba's Taradale. See the notice in the foyer.

Recycling of Soft Plastics:

In the foyer/hallway there is now a bin for soft plastics. You may bring your clean and dry soft plastics from home, if it is easier for you than returning them to the supermarket.

Richard will then deliver them for us.

Lunchtime Concert

13th August St Columba's Havelock North. See the poster in the foyer for more details.

Bible Readings for Monday 12th August to Saturday 17th August 2024

Monday, August 12, 2024:

Psalm 57; 2 Samuel 15:13-31; Ephesians 5:1-14

Tuesday, August 13, 2024:

Psalm 57; 2 Samuel 18:19-33; 2 Peter 3:14-18

Wednesday, August 14, 2024:

Psalm 57; 2 Samuel 19:1-18; John 6:35-40

Thursday, August 15, 2024:

Psalm 111; 1 Kings 1:1-30; Acts 6:8-15

Friday, August 16, 2024:

Psalm 111; 1 Kings 1:28-48; Romans 16:17-20

Saturday, August 17, 2024:

Psalm 111; 1 Kings 2:1-11; John 4:7-26