

St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Napier.

'Partners in God's Mission of Love'

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

Sunday 12th May, 2024

Easter 7

10am service *led by Rev Keith Rowe*

Music led by Dorothy Finlayson

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** (Words:CH4, 416, Tune: Truro, CH4,214i.)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

His cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love drowned in death shall never die.
Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
Where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives where even hope has died.

Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love and praise.

Brian Wren.

Prayer for the day:

God of infinite love, whose generosity is beyond our imagining,
God within the pain of our struggling world,
God of Easter possibility and of resurrection hope,
*May we live as agents of Christ-hope in our damaged world,
May we have strength for the tasks that lie before us. Amen.*

The Readings:

1 John 4:7-12.

No three Biblical words are more important and life transforming than the words “God is Love.” With these words John goes to the heart of the Christian Way. In the Old Testament Jeremiah imagines God reassuring a broken and despairing people that they are ‘loved with an everlasting love’. John keeps it simple yet profound: simply, “God is love.” The ethical conclusion he draws is similarly simple yet

profound; “since we are held in God-love, we also ought to love one another.”

John 15: 9-17.

John’s Gospel is sometimes described as ‘The Gospel of Love’. This passage certainly places love front and centre of the Way pioneered by Jesus. It seems that the over-arching purpose of Jesus, according to John, is to teach people to “love one another.” So simple, so difficult, so necessary, so extraordinary, so uncommon. If we were to read further in John, we would be alerted to the strange fact that seeking a world shaped in love can cause some to distrust you – either to rubbish you as a starry-eyed idealist or as some sort of revolutionary wanting to reshape society. Strange but true. Jesus was killed by those who feared love, justice peace and change. He was killed but the Love goes on.

Reflection: ‘God is love’: living toward , a society shaped by practical love.

***Hymn: There’s a wideness in God’s mercy**

Tune: Cross of Jesus, Together in Song, 136.

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in God’s justice,
lived out fully on a cross.

But we make God’s love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

For the love of God is broader

than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

Offering:

God of heaven and earth, you make us one in Christ. Inspire us with new vision and the wisdom of ancient dreams. Give us strength to walk together as people of Christ, supporting each other on the journey and contributing to the well-being of the human family.

Christ is risen and goes before us into every part of life.
We are surrounded by signs of Christ's presence.
Christ is risen. ***He is risen indeed.***

There are people in every continent working for peace.
They seek a world where human life can flourish
and the sound of guns is silenced.
Christ is risen. ***He is risen indeed.***

In our land and in many lands people are learning
to reach across barriers that divide and to befriend
those of other faiths, cultures, histories.
Christ is risen. ***He is risen indeed.***

In our own district there are people who feed the hungry,
give shelter to the homeless, visit the prisoners,
care for the vulnerable and offer friendship to the lonely.

Christ is risen. *He is risen indeed.*

Even as we pray, forgiveness is being offered and accepted,
truth is being spoken to those who exploit their neighbours,
the sick are being healed, the dying are being supported.

Christ is risen. *He is risen indeed.*

God, present among us, whisper of a gentle breeze,
insistent call to seek justice and to make peace,
deep mystery that will not let us go,

open our eyes to see you in the everyday,

open our hearts to your truth and your love.

In life and in death hold us within your risen love.

Prayers for the world:

***Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling**

Tune, Hyfrydol, CH4 519.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,

glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

As we take leave of each other and return to our homes, let our final act be to join together in singing the Prayer of Jesus (WOV 676)

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us each day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sin 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.***

Blessing:

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

Helping Today

Greeters: Jill McConnochie & Margaret Greig

Offering: Helen McClymont

Bible Readers: Meg Sillay

Music: Dorothy Finlayson

Flowers: Marian Eagle

Grounds: Mike & Bev Coghill

Helping in two weeks' time 19th May 2024

Greeters: Murray & Lynne Arnold

Offering: Sylvia Low

Bible Reader: Sylvia Low

Music: Pam Clare

Flowers: Bill & Alison Hancock

Grounds: Bruce Tucker

Prayer Focus:

Let us pray for: -

- * Ministry among us: **Care and Share**
- * Partners in God's Mission of Love: **Napier Family Centre**
- * Partners in the Napier Inner City: **Trinity Methodist Church**
- * Parishes in our Presbytery: **St Columba's Taradale**

Combined HB Pressies Pentecost Service

There will be a combined Hawke's Bay Pressies service on **Sunday 19th May at 4pm at St Columba's Havelock North.**

Thursday morning prayer time

We continue to meet together at **9.00am each Thursday morning** to pray for our church. Please come and join with us if you can.

Weekly Eco Corner

James Shaw's Valedictory Speech in Parliament, 1 May 2024

The only true legacy that we can leave is to cherish the world that we have inherited and to bequeath a better one for our descendants. Civilisations become great when old men plant trees. This is the only way that any of us will ever create anything that lasts beyond our time in this House or on this earth. Everyone we care about, everything we argue about happens here on what Carl Sagan calls "**this pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.**"

Care and Share:

Our next gathering is to be held in the Church lounge on Monday 20th May, 2024 at 1.30pm. Rev. Ofa Taukolo is the new Minister at Trinity and she is going to be our guest speaker. You will enjoy meeting her and hearing how she arrived in Napier. Do join us and bring a friend. Remember the sales table and stay to enjoy a cuppa. All welcome. Dorothy

June 2024 Newsletter

We are starting to put together the next quarterly newsletter. Please send any contributions to Pam pmclare16@gmail.com or Bridget stpaulsnapier@gmail.com. All submissions to be received by Monday 20th May.

Christian Lovelink Blanket Drive

St Paul's has been asked to be the Napier drop-off point for this year's Blanket Drive which is run by Christian Lovelink. This will take place during the week commencing **Sunday 12th May and finishing on Friday 17th May**. If you wish to donate **blankets, duvets or towels (all sizes are required)**, please drop off to the church office either on **Sunday 12th May** or during office hours, **11am to 1.30pm, Tuesday 14th to Friday 17th May**.

Piping & Drumming Live - Napier Pipe Band

The Band will be presenting another Piping & Drumming Live event at the Napier RSA on Sunday 19th May. Always popular with members and supporters the concert programme will feature favourites like Highland Cathedral and Amazing Grace along with traditional and new music.

Commencing at 2.30pm the concert showcases the talents of pipers and drummers and afterwards there is the opportunity to relax and talk with band members and friends and to stay on for a meal. No charge for admission.

Nourished for Nil:

Thank you for your ongoing donations to Nourished for Nil. Any donations that you provide is appreciated, and we will leave it to your discretion.

We are always short of: Sweet biscuits, jams, or any spreads, tin soups, treats, muesli bars, toothpaste.

Thanks Donna, Napier Branch

Lost Property:



Do you recognise this red jacket and set of car keys? They have been hanging in the foyer for quite sometime and need to find an owner. Please claim them if they are yours.

Bible Readings for Monday 13th May to Saturday 18th May 2024

Monday, May 13, 2024:

Psalm 115; Exodus 28:29-38; Philippians 1:3-11

Tuesday, May 14, 2024:

Psalm 115; Numbers 8:5-22; Titus 1:1-9

Wednesday, May 15, 2024:

Psalm 115; Ezra 9:5-15; John 16:16-24

Thursday, May 16, 2024:

Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 2:4b-7; 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Friday, May 17, 2024:

Psalm 33:12-22; Job 37:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Saturday, May 18, 2024:

Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 15:6-11; John 7:37-39