



# City PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Discovering The Riches Of Christ*

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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**Welcome to City Presbyterian Church!** We understand that coming to a church service can be a bit of an uncomfortable experience for many people. As Christians we believe that this time is an opportunity to engage with God, and during our time of worship we employ a variety of means by which we seek to do so. **We invite you to relax and participate as you feel comfortable.** If you don't feel like praying, singing, or even standing up you don't need to, no one will think less of you. If you have any questions about why we do any of the things we do please don't hesitate to ask anyone who's involved with the service. If you're interested in having your children in creche you may take them there after the "prayers for the people church and world" and pick them up again after the sermon. Thanks for joining us this morning. We hope you find the time both encouraging and thought provoking. Please join us after the service for morning tea. Thank you!

### **Call to Worship: Psalm 46:1-3, 8-11**

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the Lord,  
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the chariots with fire.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"

<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

### **Opening Prayer**

## **Songs of Adoration**<sup>1</sup>: *Better Is One Day*

Author: Matt Redman

How lovely is your dwelling place  
O Lord Almighty for my soul longs  
And even faints for you  
For here my heart is satisfied  
Within Your presence  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

*Chorus:*

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere

One thing I ask and I would seek  
To see your beauty  
To find you in the place your glory dwells (*Repeat*)

*(Chorus)*

My heart and flesh cry out  
For you, the living God  
Your Spirit's water to my soul  
I've tasted and I've seen  
Come once again to me  
I will draw near to you  
I will draw near to you

Better is one day, better is one day  
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere (*Repeat*)

*(Chorus)*

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<sup>1</sup> Adoration is giving glory and thanks in love to God for His greatness and His grace.

## *Jerusalem*

Authors: City Alight

See him in Jerusalem  
Walking where the crowds are  
Once these streets had sung to him  
Now they cry for murder  
Such a frail and lonely man  
Holding up the heavy cross  
See him walking in Jerusalem  
On the road to save us

See him there upon the hill  
Hear the scorn and laughter  
Silent as a lamb he waits  
Praying to the Father  
See the King who made the sun  
And the moon and shining stars  
Let the soldiers hold and nail him down  
So that he could save them

See him there upon the cross  
Now no longer breathing  
Dust that formed the watching crowds  
Takes the blood of Jesus  
Feel the earth is shaking now  
See the veil is split in two  
And he stood before the wrath of God  
Shielding sinners with his blood

See the empty tomb today  
Death could not contain him  
Once the servant of the world  
Now in victory reigning

Lift your voices to the one  
Who is seated on the throne  
See him in the New Jerusalem  
Praise the one who saved us!

### **Call to Repentance: Matthew 5:38-48**

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup> And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup> And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. <sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Silent Reflection & Confession of Sin**

#### **Assurance of Grace: 1 Peter 2:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## **Profession of Faith:** *The Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 60*<sup>2</sup>

### **Question: How are you righteous before God?**

Answer: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ:

even though my conscience accuses me  
of having grievously sinned  
against all God's commandments,  
and of never having kept any of them,  
and even though I am still inclined to all evil;  
nevertheless, without my deserving it at all,  
out of sheer grace,  
God grants and credits to me  
the perfect satisfaction,  
righteousness, and holiness of Christ,  
as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner,  
as if I had been perfectly obedient as Christ was for me.  
All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.

## **Song of Response:** *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Authors: John Newton, Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

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<sup>2</sup> The Heidelberg Catechism is a teaching resource summarising Biblical content that has been used in churches since the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

*Chorus:*

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His Word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

*(Chorus 2x)*

## **Prayers for the People, the Church, and the World**

- *Children may go to creche* -

### **Message:** *Guarding the Faith By Passing It On*

*<sup>3</sup> I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup> As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

<sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup> which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. <sup>13</sup> Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

<sup>15</sup> You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. <sup>16</sup> May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, <sup>17</sup> but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— <sup>18</sup> may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

<sup>2:1</sup> You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup> An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> The saying is trustworthy, for:

*If we have died with him, we will also live with him;*

*<sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him;*

*if we deny him, he also will deny us;*

*<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.*

- 2 Timothy 1:3-2:13

Notes, Thoughts, Questions: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Song of Response:** *This I Believe*

Authors: Ben Fielding & Matt Crocker

Our Father everlasting  
The all creating one  
God Almighty  
Through your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Saviour

### *Chorus:*

I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus

Our judge and our defender  
Suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in you  
Descended into darkness  
You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high

### *(Chorus)*

I believe in you  
I believe you rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

I believe in life eternal  
I believe in the virgin birth  
I believe in the saints' communion  
And in your holy Church

I believe in the resurrection  
When Jesus comes again  
For I believe, in the name of Jesus

*(Chorus)*

## **Benediction**

## Announcements

**2021 Retreat:** The sign-up form has gone out for our 2021 church retreat the 28th-30th of May in Mangawhai Heads. Please sign up at your convenience, and if you haven't received the form please talk to David or Gretchen. The retreat is a fun and significant time for connecting and cohering around our mission as a church, as well as just having a rest and getting away, and best of all, it's free for everyone who wants to go! This year the theme of our talks will be faith and work. Hope you can join us.

**CAP Money Course:** Over 3 consecutive Thursdays starting the 17th of June City Pres will be hosting a CAP Money Course - practical training in wise principles of personal finance management that can be transformative for people of any financial situation. Please plan to assist and/or participate if you are available.

**GPCNZ Women's Seminar on Anxiety:** City Pres is hosting a denomination-wide women's seminar event on the 26th of June right here at the Ponsonby Community Centre from 1:00-4:00pm. Counselor Hannah Bredemeijer will lead talks on the topic of anxiety. It should be an incredibly valuable time. If you need childcare, contact Gretchen.

**Community Groups:** Community Groups are a key part of our life and mission at City Pres. We hope everyone will participate in a group this year as we study the Bible, grow deeper in relationship, and partner together to love and serve others around us. Groups meet on Tuesday and Thursday this week. If you're interested please just email David at [davidbruner@citypres.org.nz](mailto:davidbruner@citypres.org.nz).

**City Presbyterian Church Giving Information:** The Bible teaches that the giving of tithes and offerings has always been seen as a part of the believer's worship to God. Apart from other charitable giving it's important for Christians to help financially sustain the ministry of the local church they are a part of. The easiest way to give for those wishing to support the work of City Presbyterian Church is online through automatic deposit. The City Presbyterian Church bank account number is 12-3066-0402436-00. If you have any questions regarding giving please talk with our pastor, David ([davidbruner@citypres.org.nz](mailto:davidbruner@citypres.org.nz)), or with our church Treasurer James Stolten ([treasurer@citypres.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@citypres.org.nz)).

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