

Dear friends,

In my devotions this morning I looked at the parable of the lost coin. It's the easily overlooked story, sandwiched in between the lost sheep and the lost son in Luke 15.

With the upcoming series on women in the bible "Her story, Her voice" it reminded me that Jesus, at least in Luke's gospel takes the time to speak to what in his day were the very separate lives of men and women. It is also can be challenging for us to see the God figure in the story as a women. However the emphasis of the devotions was on the fact that when the woman found the missing coin she was filled with joy and invited her neighbours to come and celebrate, that what was lost has been found. Jesus concluded so it is that the whole of heaven rejoices when a sinner repents. Can I encourage you this week to be part of the joyous event of finding the lost.

This week and next we are involved in the Thy Kingdom Come season of prayer and we are asking everyone to commit to praying for five friends or family members who do not know Christ to come to faith. To commit to praying for one friend to invite along to the Alpha dinner we are running in July this year. Alpha is a course designed for people to find out about the Christian faith. It simply starts with a dinner where people can enjoy fellowship friendship and a good meal together and invites them to think about doing Alpha.

Here are the notices...

COVID Level 1

Last week I spent three days off sick from work, due to an infected insect bite. It reminded me of the danger of the small things like viruses and how they can have a huge impact. So please do not become complacent about COVID. At present we are in COVID Alert Level 1 and we need to follow basic health and safety guidelines. Regularly wash hands, avoid touching your face, and sign in using the QR code and COVID tracer app or on paper. We still have a few COVID tracer diaries in the church foyer if you don't have a smart phone. Please stay home if you are unwell. Get in touch with health professionals and get tested if you have any of the COVID symptom. Respect people's desire to socially distance and avoid contact. Bumping elbows is as much a greeting as shaking hands. Some of our folk work in positions where they have to take extra care to avoid COVID.

Sunday worship

This Sunday we continue our series leading into Pentecost, looking at the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga – Lorne Campbell (Ephesians 4:7-16, many Gifts, One common goal)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Enosa Auva'a (1 Peter 4:7-11 Many gifts, to glorify God)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi – Howard Carter (1 Corinthians 14:1-40 Many gifts and public worship)

Zoom service

We will be having a Zoom component to our services on Sunday. If you are unable to come to church in person this is a great way to worship with us and stay connected.

The **9:30am** service at HOPECENTRAL will be streamed on zoom.

The link to the service is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285364673>

If you are using the zoom app on your mobile device then the meeting ID is: 89285364673

If you are going to dial in using a landline the phone number is 09 884 6780

And when prompted put in the **meeting ID: 89285364673**

Thy Kingdom Come May 13th - 23rd

This is an important season of prayer for our church and for our mission of connecting people with God and with each other. As mission starts in prayer. We will again be joining with Christians from all over the world in a season of prayer between Ascension Sunday and Pentecost. Joining together to pray for people to come to know Christ and for the renewal of the church.

There are some helpful videos online to help us with a daily reflection for this season. They will be posted on our HopeWhangarei Facebook page and in our connect Facebook group. If you are not on Facebook here is the link to the Thy Kingdom Come Website.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/videos>

We are again asking people to be committed to praying for five people (friends and family) to come to know Christ. I had the great joy this year of seeing one of the people I had been praying for the past three years become a Christian this year. We are asking that you specifically pray for one non-Christian you can invite along to the alpha dinner at the beginning of July.

We are wanting to have as many hours continuous prayer for the church, nation and world as we can during this season. So the small lounge at HopeCentral is being turned into a prayer room for the eleven days of thy Kingdom Come. Please come and spend an hour praying there.

On May 29th there will be a gospel and healing service at HopeCentral and we are asking people to prayer walk the street in which they live and to deliver a flier to that service into every letterbox.

Hope Tikipunga Challenge 2021

Over the past two years we have had a challenge to support Family Works (Presbyterian Support)

2019 –pajamas, 2020 - beanies, scarves and booties. Well in 2021 it is knee rugs, throws, and cuddlies. We will have a morning tea on 6th July at Hope Tikipunga and invite a representative from Family Works to come along a receive the projects. There are several ways you can contribute; crochet a small rug, knit peggy squares and sew together, polar fleece is a good option, and patchwork throws are popular. Or, you might like to donate some wool for someone to use. For

more details, please contact Kaye, Rae or Helen McGregor 0274373016.

[Pentecost combined service May 23rd 10:00am](#)

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church it is when the Holy Spirit came in power on those first believers. This year we will be celebrating Pentecost at HopeWhangarei with a combined service at HopeCentral. The service time will be 10am. Come and celebrate and rejoice together that God has sent his Spirit "A Gift for all of us".

[Gospel and Healing Service at Hope Central - May 30th](#)

Do take the up-coming opportunity to invite a friend to come to church on May 30th for our Gospel & healing service. The reason why many people don't come to church is because no one invites them!

At Ray Evan's baptism on Easter Sunday he said in his testimony "... and then a dear friend invited me to come to church, and then from then on my life began to change".

Invitation begins with prayer. Pray for your friends. Pray for your street. Pray for opportunities and boldness to invite.

Come and join a team of people praying for the service on Wednesdays at 11am-12noon at Central.

[Know your Community, know you are family - Saturday May 15th 11 am to 5pm](#)

I would really like to invite as many people as possible to come along to this event as a way of our church getting to know the people in our community. Saturday May 15th is International Day of families. Multi-Cultural Whangarei is holding a shared lunch at HopeCentral that day as a way of celebrating our connectedness to each other as the family of humanity. So why not come and bring a dish that represents your culture, a photo of your whanau and make friends with many of the people who now make this city their home.

[Hope Whangarei Service leaders gathering: Saturday May 15th 9am-10:30 at Central](#)

All service leaders and any prospective service leaders are encouraged to come along to a gathering at Central next Saturday.

It is a time for encouraging one another, envisioning, training and equipping.

Thanks for those who have thus far said they will attend!

[Grief Seminar – Whangarei Anglican Care](#)

Whangarei Anglican Care are holding a Grief Seminar, Walking through the Shadows, from Tuesday 8th June – Tuesday 29th June 2021. Time: 1 – 2.30pm @ the Anglican Care Centre, 1 Mill Road, Regent. No charge.

This is a four week small group course where you can process and understand the grief and loss of bereavement.

The group will be facilitated by trained counsellors:

Suzanne Mackay and Maureen Tearle

In the group you will have:

- An opportunity to explore the grief process and what that experience may look like for the individual, in a safe and supportive environment.
- Help to form strategies to assist in managing life with the inevitable changes that grief and loss bring.

Please note: this group will not be appropriate for those early in the grief process (if the loss has been within the last 6 months)

Registrations are essential – Ph.: 437 6397 or email: enquiry@whgcare.org.nz

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts are now available at each Church. Please contact Karen on karen@hopewhangarei.nz if you wish for your receipt to be emailed to you.

Volunteers Required

We are in need of volunteers for each site to ensure the smooth running of the services on Sunday. In particular Central requires people available for organising the morning teas. Please contact Karen on karen@hopewhangarei.nz to advise of your availability. Thankyou.

Blessing

As we head into Pentecost (May 23rd) I want to leave you with a blessing and a promise from the gospel of Luke. A promise based on God's very character that he will give his Holy Spirit to all who ask him.

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for ¹¹ a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Ko tāku kupu anō tēnei ki a koutou, Inoi, ā ka hoatu ki a koutou; e rapu, ā ka kite koutou; pātukia, a ka uakina ki a koutou. ¹⁰ Ka whiwhi hoki ngā tāngata katoa ina inoi; ka kite ina rapu; ka uakina ki te tangata e patuki ana.

¹¹ Ko tēhea matua o koutou ki te inoia e tāna tama tētahi taro, e hoatu rānei ki a ia he kāmaka? ki te inoia he ika, e hoatu rānei ki a ia he nākahi hei ika? ¹² Ki te inoia he hua manu, e hoatu rānei ki a ia he kopiona? ¹³ Ki te mea ko koutou, hunga kino nei, e mātau ana ki te hoatu mea papai ki a koutou tamariki: tērā noa ake te hōmaitanga o te Wairua Tapu e tō koutou Matua i te rangi ki te hunga e inoi ana ki a ia.

Luke 11:9-13

Let's ask the father to send his spirit more and more on our church that we may be able to be part of Christ's Kingdom Coming in Whangarei and beyond.

Howard Carter
SENIOR**MINISTER**
HOPEWHANGĀREI

11th May 2021