

Dear Friends

It was a great privilege on Sunday morning to have Enosa's Graduation from the ordained programme and his licencing as a Preacher of the Good News of Jesus Christ by the Northern Presbytery. It was rather poetic that an internship that had been dominated by the COVID pandemic should be concluded on-line. Although I was sad we could not say our farewells to Enosa, Felicity and their Aiga face to face it was a fitting and as one text I received said, honouring service.

When Enosa's son Onesai was ordained as an Anglican minister in 2020 we had two kauri crosses made, one for Onesai and the other for Enosa. They are a gift that reflects the heart of Northland.

It was also our most technically complex service to date, with a live music team and choir at Central, a sermon from Dunedin, involvement from people and groups in Whangarei as well as video elements sent from Italy. I want to thank the wonderful team of musicians, readers and contributors and the tech team behind the scenes. Thanks to Kris and Karen for co-hosting the event, to Isaac Carter (if I may indulge myself as a proud and grateful Dad) and Shane Jansen for doing all the camera and computer work.

We recorded the service and the greetings afterward and you can view or download them here

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ipdZPDQBChBQS9cmbc3qUMIMqJEnQSwE/view?usp=sharing>

Here are the notices...

COVID Health and Safety

We have moved into the new government COVID suppression plan (AKA traffic light system) Northland is under Red at the moment.

Our services will require the vaccine pass and numbers at each service are limited to 100.

Basic health and safety measures for COVID will remain constant under the new COVID Protection Plan.

Hygiene: washing and sanitising hands.

Mask wearing: Mask wearing at gatherings like worship is "strongly" encouraged... it is one of the ways we can show our care for each other... Please make sure that you bring and wear a mask.

Scan or sign in using the COVID tracing app: This is *mandatory* for gathering such as worship.

Connect groups can continue to gather under the Red setting, with a maximum of 25 people, leaders should also keep a record of who is attending for sake of contact tracing.

Please respect physical distancing: we are aware that some people are still very conscious of physical distancing and ask people to respect this.

Stay at home if you are unwell: The best way we can protect one another is to stay home and join worship via zoom if we are unwell.

The government says the best health advice is to get vaccinated. It is a way in which we can show our care and love for one another.

COVID symptoms are as follows:

New or worsening cough, sneezing and runny nose, fever, temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste, sore throat, shortness of breath. Less common symptoms of COVID-19 may include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain

or confusion/irritability.

Close contacts and places of interest: If you have been at a place of interest or in close contact with people who have COVID please follow Department of health guidelines on testing and self-isolation. If you have symptoms or have been in a place of interest or in contact with people with COVID please get tested.

Please contact the church office in that situation for pastoral support and to give us a heads up. We have fact sheets from the government website to help people know what they should do in those situations. We can help arrange grocery drop offs etc.

Sunday services

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - (Cath Bremner) (Revelation 1:1-8)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - (Diane McKinstry) (Luke 2:36-40 Anna and women in Luke's Gospel).

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - (Lorne Campbell) (Revelation 3:7-13)

We will also be holding a non-differentiated (no vax pass required) service at central in the lounge. This will be limited to 25 people under red. So please contact the church office to let us know if you are considering coming. We will zoom into the main service at central. Rev Howard Carter will be present at this service. Access to the lounge will be through the side gate at the park side of HopeCentral.

Zoom service 9:30am Sunday December 12th

The HopeCentral service will be streamed via zoom.

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

If you are using an app on a mobile device the meeting ID number is: 89285364673

You can join via landline.

Please note that the process has changed. The phone number is 09 884 6780 you will need to input for the meeting

The number when Meeting ID prompted: 89285364673 followed by the # key. Then you will be asked for a further ID number or to press the # key again. Press the # hash key again.

I apologise for the change Zoom changed its call in system without advising us of it.

Blessing the inner-city businesses – biscuits and flowers - Tuesday December 21st

We want to bring a blessing to the inner city businesses and groups we are connected with through our inner city chaplain team. It is a way of being neighbourly and letting them know we care about them coming up to Christmas. Elaine Holwell says, "Know that we did such a wonderful job last year and it cemented our churches care for the CBD, it would be great to be able to show such care this year."

We need people to bake biscuits and make small flower bouquets for us to give them. We would need the biscuits and arrangements delivered to HopeCentral by 9:00am on Tuesday December 21st

We also need a team of people to come to Central on Tuesday December 21st to help package up biscuits and flowers for delivery that morning.

If you can help by baking and or coming and packaging the biscuits and flowers, please ring Elaine: 0220812784 to let her know you can help.

Advent devotions

If people are looking for advent devotions here is a link to a series of devotions based on scripture and the writings of well-known Christian thinkers and writers throughout history (CS Lewis JRR Tolkien etc.). It is called The Grand Miracle and produced by the Christian History Institute. It is downloadable as a PDF for the church's google drive.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Sgruj4Ktxs_5BRWYwD1M1ceMhd7eT2l/view?usp=sharing

Fill the Christmas Wheelbarrow @ HOPECentral!

One of the memorable moments two years ago was taking a Christmas box of goodies to a family connected through the church and discover that they were in desperate need of cheer. The tears of gratitude flowed as they received a gift. Just the other day, a man who uses our carpark asked if he could donate something to it like he did last year!

Please consider being a part of blessing others this Christmas by filling our Christmas wheelbarrow with Christmas "fare"...

Nice Food ... Drink ... supermarket vouchers ... and other goodies are encouraged!

The wheelbarrow is in the foyer at Central and everyone is welcome to place their offerings in it.

Blessing

At the end of their greeting to Enosa and Felicity on Sunday Jimmy and Cherie Hemara sang the Aaronic blessing as a waiata, a blessing that has become very important during the COVID pandemic. So I leave it with you today

““The Lord bless you
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

Mā Ihowā koe e manaaki,
māna koe e tiaki:

25 Mā Ihowā e mea kia tiaho tōna mata ki a koe,
mōāna anō hoki koe e atawhai:

26 Mā Ihowā tōna kanohi e whakaara ki a koe,
māna ano e tuku te rangimārie ki a koe.

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI

December 7th 2021

Like birds hovering overhead,
the Lord Almighty will shield Jerusalem;
he will shield it and deliver it,
he will 'pass over' it and will rescue it."

Ka rite ki ngā manu e rere ana tā Ihowā o ngā mano
tiaki i Hiruhārama,
ka tiakina, ka whakaorangia,
ka tika atu ia na runga, ka araaraia e ia.

-Isaiah 31:5

HOPEWHANGĀREI
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SINCE 1859

