

Dear Friends,

Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.

Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

(Psalm 62:1,2)

On Friday I sent out a pastoral email around the move to Alert level Orange on the governments COVID suppression plan. Adrian Whale quipped with me at Men's Prayer breakfast that morning, "it's a very orange dawn today", sadly by the time I'd actually got his joke we have moved back into Red, at midnight on Sunday. It is very uncertain times. I've been blessed this week, in the midst of that, to have some encouragement from Psalm 62 shared with me by a friend and colleague.

My friend Ben Dykman is the minister at Greenlane Presbyterian Church and he shared Psalm 62 in his online devotion last week. Like all the psalms it is a very gritty and real prayer full both of the trouble of life and also in the midst of that dependence and trust in God. Ben wrote that in a time of uncertainty it is good to have a sure and certain hope, not based on circumstances or what we do or do not have but on the character of God. The Psalm starts (v1-7) with the Psalmist speaking of his own personal faith in the face of his own personal trouble. It finishes by encouraging his hearers to have the same hope in God (8-12). A hope as the psalmist says in verse 11 and 12 based on two facts he knows about God: Power Belongs to God (v11), that God is all powerful and sovereign, and that in God there is unfailing love (v12). God is for us, shown in the sending of his Son Jesus Christ, Jesus life, death and resurrection, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on all who believe. May you find that peace and shelter in God, may it guide and motivate, lead and guide all your actions and reactions.

Here are the notices.

Sunday Worship January 30th

We are again meeting for worship at all our three sites. We are still in January holiday mode so will be linking together for the message again this week via zoom. I will be preaching part two of a two part series looking at the letter of Philemon. Last week we looked at what it said to us about individual reconciliation, this week we will look at what it has to say about larger social issues. The message is called *Philemon and a glimpse of the Church as a place of hope and an agent for change*.

10:00am@ HopeTikipunga

9:30am @ HopeCentral

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi

All our regular services require vaccine passes. Under red we are limited to 100 people. We have an alternative, non -vaccine pass service , limited to 25 people in the lounge at HopeCentral at 9:30am which connects to the service via zoom.

9:30am Zoom service details

The worship service at Central is zoomed each Sunday.

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. The host will ask for your name so we can put it on the computer screen so after the service people will know who you are.

After the service we will break into small groups so people can catch up, pray with each other. If you are on a landline you can unmute yourself by pressing *6. If you have someone on a landline in your group please introduce yourselves to them.

[A day of Pray to start the year - Thursday February 3rd](#)

We are setting aside Thursday February 3rd as a day of prayer to start the year. We will start and finish the day with gathered worship and prayer 7am and 7pm, there will be times of prayer at lunch time at Tikipunga, Onerahi and Central as well as the church being open for people to come and spend an hour of prayer during the day. More details next week. But please put this day in your diary.

[COVID Health and safety](#)

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...

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

Please respect physical distancing: we are aware that some people are still very conscious of physical Distancing and we 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’s best health advice is to get vaccinated, they are also encouraging anyone eligible for a booster shot (if you had your second vaccination more than four months ago).

With omicron in mind the government are also encouraging people to have a buddy system with another person or household, if in the eventuality of having to self-isolate then you have someone to check on you and shop for you if required. Please feel free to let us know at the church if you need assistance. Ring church office:- 4381667 or Howard Carter on 0277508602.

[Government COVID suppression plan](#)

Under the government COVID suppression plan (AKA traffic light system) Northland is back under Red.

Our services will require the vaccine pass and numbers at each service are limited to 100. A non-differentiated service will be held in the lounge at HopeCentral, under Red it is limited to 25 people.

We will alert people when the traffic lights change and what they means for us.

Blessing

You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.
Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.

-Isaiah 26:3,4

Blessings

Howard Carter

SENIORMINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI

January 25th 2022

Ps:- With the breeding season for birds coming to an end there have been flocks of birds gathering together around the harbour and coast line. On Monday at high tide I went out to McLeod's Bay and saw groups of Torea (pied Oystercatchers), Karoro (black backed Gulls) and of course Poaka (pied Stilts) all gathered at the Domain, waiting for the tide to drop so they could go out and feed.

This image is of a flock of Poaka standing together with their heads into the wind. They winter together at McLeod's Bay.

