

Dear Friends,

It's my first full day back at work in the office in just over two weeks. It feels quite daunting as I face catching up on all the stuff that didn't get done because while I did work from home some of the time, the amount of energy I had and the doctors' orders meant I needed to rest and recuperate, and also the usual amount of work the new week brings. I start each work day with devotions and in the one year bible readings today Nicky Gumbel introduced the readings by talking about battles. He said,

*"The nature of these battles has varied enormously. There have been internal battles – times of intense temptation, doubt, fear and anxiety. There have been times of deep sadness, great loss and bereavement. There have been battles over health, sleep, finances, work and relationships. There have been periods of great opposition and criticism."*

The passages (Psalm 33:12-22, Luke 1:26-36, Numbers 1:1-2:9) were all then interpreted in how they can help us in times of battle. Focusing us to trust God, pray, rally around Jesus and listen to God as God speaks through the Holy Spirit. The verses that stood out to me were from the Psalm. After the psalmist speaks of those who trust in the Lord rather than strength and might, size and strength, military power and superior technology, he in verse 20 turns to give voice to the hope of the people of God. Speaking in the first person plural the psalmist invites us to affirm our trust in God.

We wait in hope for the Lord;  
He is *our* help and *our* shield.  
In him *our* hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.  
May your unfailing love be with *us*, Lord,  
even as we put our hope in you.

The psalmist prayer becomes our prayer. Our theology and wisdom and understanding about God becomes real as we put it into action trusting God in the midst of the battles of life. A good reminder for me and for us all.

Here are the notices...

### [Sunday Worship March 20<sup>th</sup>](#)

Join us as we gather together to give thanks to God for his goodness and for all he has done for us through his son Jesus Christ, and as we continue our journey through the book of Revelation, seeing our eternal hope in the midst of present difficulty.

HopeTikipunga @ 10:00am - Revelation 12 (Roland Schreurs)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am Revelation 10 - (Howard Carter)

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am Revelation 11 - (Lorne Campbell)

We require a vax pass at each of our sites. There is a service in the lounge at HopeCentral which does not require a vax pass (the worship and message is streamed in from the sanctuary). Numbers are limited to 25.

## Zoom service

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.

## Daily Prayer Vigil for Eastern Europe - This week - 12noon – 1pm at Central

This week, the prayer vigil for Eastern Europe will **continue**, and you are invited to come along to join others gathering to pray. Details are:

- 12 noon - 1 pm at Hope Central
- Access through the big double blue doors in the garden facing Bank Street
- This is a non-vaccine pass gathering, with 25 people maximum at one time. (overflow could just meet in the garden outside to pray)
- We require people to sign in on arrival (access codes or by hand).
- A prayer prompt sheet will be available if needed

We are grateful to various connect groups who will host these meetings! Thank you!

Do hope you can make space in your day to attend at least one gathering this week ...

"Lord, please have mercy on the innocents of Ukraine and Russia"

**Please also see an updated prayer vigil attached**

## Ian McCormack's Testimony in full – from Lorne's recent message on Revelation 9

Many people were touched and impacted by Ian McCormack's amazing testimony of his encounter with heaven and hell. He has been travelling the world for the last 35 years telling his story.

Some have wanted to see more. Here is the link to the entire story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bK4wAemGz0>

## End of Tax year – Donations receipts 2021/2022

The end of the financial tax year is fast approaching. Any donations received into the church bank account by the 31<sup>st</sup> March will be included in the 2021/2022 tax donation receipts. If you have any questions please contact Karen in the church office Monday – Friday 9am – 2pm or via email [karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:karen@hopewhangarei.nz).

## Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> - Churches Together Northland

Churches Together Northland will be holding an autumn gathering via zoom on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker for the day is Rev Viv Coleman. Viv will be speaking on the wellbeing of people in church leadership. The webinar is open to all and if you are interested, please let the church office know and we will give you the zoom link. Viv will be speaking from 10:20 to midday. Here is the zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240342044>

## Updating our Church directory

**If you have joined our church within the last 3 years or you have a new address, home or cell phone number, email address within the last 3 years could you please contact the office on 438 1667 between 9-1 or email [colleen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:colleen@hopewhangarei.nz) Thankyou.**

## Walking Group – are you interested?

*" Hi there - My name is Armand Sinclair and I have joined Hope Whangarei recently. I have been living in Parua Bay for the last 12 years and enjoying our unique and beautiful nature. I would like to share this joy with my brothers and sisters In Christ. Therefore, I invite anyone to join me and to set up a walking group with the goals to enjoy the nature as God's creation and to praise God's word as written in the Bible. **Four of us met last week and enjoyed the exercise and fellowship while walking around the Pukenui Loop Track just of 3 Mile Bush Road Kamo** We will select different locations around Whangarei and combine our Bible study during the rest with Coffee and tea in the nature. Please send your interest to my e-mail [novother@yahoo.com](mailto:novother@yahoo.com) or the official church e-mail. We can decide together about all details later. God's bless"*

## Music Connect group Wednesdays 7:30pm - HopeCentral

Every Wednesday there will be a connect group in the worship area at HopeCentral. Primarily it is for musicians and while the core group will be those who help lead at HopeCentral, we hope that people who want to be involved in worship music from all our sites might feel like joining. If you are musical and you want to get some confidence in playing with others and try out playing at church then this is a good way to start. Plus it'll be fun and fellowship, prayer and care. So if you are interested come along on Wednesday.

## 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.

## Government COVID suppression plan

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

**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: 438 1667 or Howard Carter on 0277508602.**

## Blessing

A simple blessing from the start of Paul's letter to the Ephesians (1:6) a prayer that we may know the grace and peace of God (Father and Son) with us, made known of course by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kia tau ki a koutou te aroha noa me te rangimārie, he mea nā te Atua, nā tō tātou Matua, nā te Ariki hoki, nā Īhu Karaiti.

Howard Carter

SENIORMINISTER  
HOPEWHANGĀREI

Ps: I was out at McLeod's Bay on Monday at half-tide and for the first time I saw a Tūturiwhatu (New Zealand Dotterel) there out on the water's edge.



