

Dear Friends,

It was great to be able to celebrate Easter all together, with no COVID restrictions on size and attendance, either inside or out. It has been a hard and painful season, and yes there is still COVID in the community, but being able to gather really made Easter special this year.

A special thanks to the people who worked at making “At The Cross”; the Whangarei Regional Ministers Association Good Friday gathering, a real special event. Also those who put together the combined Easter Sunday Service. Thanks to Chris Garland for the great photos of *At The Cross*. Who would have thought after the start to that week that the main issue weather-wise would have been being worried about too much sun.



In my daily reading today, I was reading in Luke 18, the last chapter of Luke’s gospel before the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the events of Jesus last week, and his death and resurrection. I was moved by the passage where Jesus outlines what would happen to him, a third time in Luke’s gospel Jesus had talked of his death and resurrection.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; <sup>33</sup> they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”

<sup>34</sup> The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

(Luke 18:31-34)

I was humbled to see Jesus had such a clear understanding what his journey to Jerusalem would mean, and his determination to do what God had set out for him.

I was also challenged by verse 34 where it says the disciples did not understand any of this. It was hidden from them. They were not ready for the costly road of the cross, nor the

amazing triumph over sin and death in the resurrection. I wonder if I, two thousand years later really comprehend what Jesus death and resurrection really means.

I have been challenged about that in one way recently. Let me share it with you. We can say we know it means that our sins are forgiven and that we can experience life in all its fullness because of Jesus. Amen to that. But recently I heard someone say that that freedom and new life was freedom 'to' as much as freedom from, freedom to love and to serve, to sacrifice and to forgive. Paul in what could be a very early Christian song or poem, in Philippians 2 invites us in our relationships to have the same mind as Christ',

Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The way to fullness of life as a community seems to be the road of sacrificial love trusting that God will breathe new full and eternal life it to our relationships as well.

Help us Lord to fully understand what your death and resurrection means for us, allow us to follow you along the costly road of sacrificial love to know new life in you. Amen

Here are the notices...

### **Sunday Worship Sunday April 24th**

We are back to our regular services at our regular times and sites this week. Between Easter and Pentecost we are taking a break from our series on Revelation and will be working our way through a six week series on the Lord's Prayer called *Teach us to Pray: the Lord's Prayer as a model for prayer and for life*. This coincides with the ThyKingdomCome season of Prayer that we will be entering in between Ascension Sunday and Pentecost (May 26<sup>th</sup>-June 5<sup>th</sup>). We will be inviting people to set aside time each day to pray for the renewal of the Church and commit themselves to praying for five people to come to know Jesus.

HopeTikipunga @ 10:00am - Kris Middendorf-Carter (Give us today our daily bread)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am - Howard Carter (Our Father, who art in heaven, holy is your name)

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am - Lorne Campbell (Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven)

## Zoom service

The zoom service is a streaming of the 9:30am HopeCentral service.

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.

## The ordination and Induction of the Rev. Enosa Auva'a to Minister at St Peter's Presbyterian Church, Tauranga. 2:30pm Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

Enosa is being ordained to ministry and inducted to be the minister at St Peter's Presbyterian Church in Tauranga on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Howard Carter is preaching at the service, and there are people from Hope who will be going down for the service. The service will also be live streamed on St Peter's YouTube channel. The link for it is

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPB4LHZTO01k9uDmqW3N3\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPB4LHZTO01k9uDmqW3N3_w)

## End of Financial Year Tax Receipts

The end of the financial year tax receipts have been finalised. Please advise our administrator Karen Cullen on [karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:karen@hopewhangarei.nz) if you wish to receive an online or physical copy of your receipt. Or alternatively phone the office during 9-1pm to advise.

## Thank You

Elaine Holwell and her team were able to deliver 40 little Easter gifts to businesses and people around the CBD and some of our own people in residential care to celebrate Easter last week. Once again thank you to all who baked and wrapped and delivered these gifts, it is part of our outreach into the central city community. Elaine is having a very well deserved rest for this week.

## Blessing

Paul finishes his long teaching about the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 (v54-58) with both praise to God and encouragement to his readers.

*"Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

<sup>55</sup> *"Where, O death, is your victory?"*

*Where, O death, is your sting?"*

<sup>56</sup> *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

*But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

*horomia ake te mate e te wikitōria.*

*<sup>55</sup> E te mate kei hea tōu wero?*

*E te rēinga kei hea tōu wikitōria?*

*<sup>56</sup> Ko te hara tō te mate wero; nā te ture hoki i kaha ai te hara: <sup>57</sup> Ki te Atua ia te whakawhetai, nāna nei i hōmai te wiktoria ki a tātou, he meatanga nā tō tatou Ariki, nā Ihu Karaiti.*

*<sup>58</sup> Heoi, e ōku tēina aroha, kia ū, kei taea te whakakorikori, kia hira te mahi ki te Ariki i ngā wa katoa, e mātau ana hoki koutou, ehara i te maumau tō koutou māuiui i roto i te Ariki.*

Blessings

Howard Carter

**SENIORMINISTER**

**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

April 19<sup>th</sup> 2022

PS:- First time out with my camera for a while on Easter Saturday. Came across a white faced heron (Matuku Moana) down amongst the oyster clad rocks. Ironically, according to 'karate kid', the movie, standing in what could be called crane position...

