

Hi there everyone,

It's Lorne here. Howard is in hospital as I write after falling foul to another infection. After a time in ICU, he is now in Ward 3 in recovery mode with intravenous antibiotics to help fight the infection. He is on complete bed rest – a “mother hen” not even allowing his laptop to enter the Ward! He reports that “I’m ok - resting and being well looked after”. Please pray for Howard and the family for a speedy and full recovery, and give thanks to all our medical and health workers who minister in our hospitals

So just a brief word to you all from me with Easter just around the corner.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” Matthew 5:8

It's not often in the news that we hear good news. This past week I was overjoyed to read about a 19 year old Liberian boy called Emmanuel Tuloe. Last year, he was struggling to earn a living as a motorbike taxi driver when he found \$50,000 (£40,000) in a mix of US and Liberian notes, wrapped in a plastic bag by the side of the road. He could have easily pocketed this life-changing amount. But he gave it to his aunt to look after and when the rightful owner appealed on national radio for help in finding the cash, Emmanuel came forward.

Mocked by some for his honesty - people laughed at him saying he would die poor - his act earned him generous rewards including a place at Ricks Institute, one of Liberia's most prestigious schools. When his story came to light, President George Weah handed him \$10,000 and a local media owner also gave him cash, some of which was raised from viewers and listeners. And the owner of the money that was found donated \$1,500-worth of goods. On top of those and perhaps most significantly, a college in the US reacted by offering him a full scholarship once he had completed his secondary education.

When interviewed about his act of honesty, Emmanuel thanked God for giving him these rewards and he was also "grateful to my parents for teaching me to be honest"... "And my message to all young people is: It's good to be honest; don't take what does not belong to you." Looking at the future, he wants to study accounting at university "to prepare myself to help guide the use of the country's money". His prudence and honesty were seen as examples to follow in a country where allegations of corruption are rife and where officials are often accused of stealing state resources.

As we come to Easter, we recall especially a number of things about the purity of the heart of Jesus:

1. His desire to fulfil God's Word of prophecy as he entered Jerusalem on a colt (see Zechariah 9:9)
2. His cleansing of the Temple of the money lenders that were polluting the place of worship and prayer (Luke 19:45,46)
3. His refusal to defend Himself against unjust prosecution (Matthew 27:14) knowing that His “fate’ was in His Fathers hands
4. His total obedience to God's will for His life by agreeing to go through the physical and spiritual agony of an horrendous crucifixion (Luke 22;41-45) where he was mocked by many (Mark 15:29-31)

This Easter let's rededicate our lives to God, asking God to cleanse our own hearts of all impurities that keep us from realising God's perfect will for our lives.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” Matthew 5:8

[A word about changes to the Government Covid plan that affect us @ Hope Whangarei](#)

- Following the Government announcements yesterday, No vaccine passes / mandates are required now to attend services at all three centres (Praise God!) ... Services are capped at 200
- The basic Covid Health and Safety plan still remains

Covid Health and Safety

Hygiene: washing and sanitising hands.

Mask wearing: Mask wearing at gatherings like worship is still “strongly” encouraged...

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.

Sunday Services this week, April 10th Palm Sunday

- Hope Tikipunga: Helen McGregor – Palm Sunday reflection.
- Hope Central: Lorne Campbell – Palm Sunday (1Kings 1: 32-40; Luke 19: 29-48)
- Hope Onerahi: Catherine Bremner – Palm Sunday (Luke 19: 29-48)

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.

Easter Services

- **Good Friday; Friday April 15th:** A combined Whangarei Churches gathering at the cross on Hunt and Bank Street outside Central, starting at 10:00am. There is a march starting at 9-30am from Church Unlimited to our premises if you would like to join in. Communion will be shared; songs sung; and 7 brief reflections by 7 different church leaders on the theme “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Come and join with other Christians across our city to celebrate the start of this great history changing event.
- **Easter Sunday, April 17th:**

This will be a Hope Combined service of sorts ... providing an opportunity for people to gather - if they wish at all three sites - with the service shared on Zoom to the sites and wider as usual.

The entire service will take place at HOPECENTRAL from where it will be broadcast at 10:00am, with a maximum of up to 200 people. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the most remarkable event in history: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter Blessing for the CBD: Message from Elaine Holwell for Central City Chaplaincy

We would like to offer the friends in our surrounding businesses a gift at Easter time. If you are willing and able to contribute by making some small bite sized treats, such as, fudge, bliss balls, coconut ice or other such small sweets to make an assortment to present. If anyone is talented enough to make hot cross buns, we could also package these up. So we know what is coming could you please let Elaine know. Please also have them ready and delivered to Hope Central by 9-30am on Tuesday 12th April. Those of you

who would like to help wrap and deliver on Tuesday, please come and enjoy the blessing that gifting can be.

Contact Elaine 0220812784

End of Financial Year Tax Receipts

The end of the financial year tax receipts will be out in the next week or so. Please advise our administrator Karen Cullen on 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.

The blessing for this week

Go as far as you dare to those far from Christ – for no one can go beyond reach of God.

Give as extravagantly as you like – for you cannot spend all the riches of God's inexhaustible supply.

Care as lavishly as you are able for you cannot exhaust the love of God.

Keep journeying as a son or daughter of Abba Father and a servant of Christ Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit – for God will always be with you.

**And may the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you always
Amen**

Rev Lorne Campbell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

HOPEWHANGĀREI