

Dear friends,

I've been trying to include going for a walk in my routine during the week. Both fitting in some exercise into my daily routine but also a spiritual discipline. If I get it in the early morning I find myself spending time reflecting and praying and feeling close to the creator surrounded by creation. The fog and mist on the hills last week were a great reminder of the presence of God (often portrayed as a cloud in the Old Testament) the river and sea, and of course birds. Yes also because it's me I've taken my camera along as well. If I fit it in at lunch time, it is out around the town with the hustle and bustle of commerce and people going about their business and even then there is a sense of God's presence amongst what seems like the everydayness of life.

It is part of trying (people tell me I can be very trying) to work on a holistic view of wellness. My supervisor Rev. Viv Coleman has written a great series of articles on her blog about wellness and the interconnectedness of spiritual, physical, relational and mental wellbeing which I have found very helpful and am trying to implement. Even taking the issue of physical wellbeing out of the box I conveniently put it in and tried to ignore it. I've mentioned them before but Here is a link to them <http://godshapedlife.blogspot.com/2022/03/wellness-in-ministry-part-one.html> although she relates them primarily to people in ministry and leadership I think there is a lot there for everyone.

Here are the notices.

Worship Sunday August 14th

Come join us for worship this Sunday at one of our three sites. Each with its own unique flavour and voice, yet each working together systematically opening up the scriptures to allow the Spirit to speak into our lives. This week is the penultimate week in our journey through the book of Revelation.

HopeTikipunga @ 10:00am - Revelation 19 (Howard Carter)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am - Revelation 21 (Roland Schreurs)

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am - Revelation 20 (Lorne Campbell)

Zoom service August 14th

The zoom service is a streaming from 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.

ZOOM hosting at Central (urgent request)

In Term 2 at Central we are starting a Children's ministry in the morning service and we have a team of wonderful people who are going to help lead this. Kris Middendorf-Carter, has volunteered to be actively involved. However for this new venture to grow and develop we need to replace Kris as the host for the Zoom component of our service on Sunday. We are looking for volunteers to host ZOOM on Sunday. Shane Jansen is helping out with zoom but we need some more people to be involved (on a roster perhaps). Yes there are some technical components, but it's mainly welcoming people and facilitating the fellowship time after the service. There is Training and mentoring available and we do have someone who will be alongside to help with the tech stuff. Please let Howard Carter know if you are interested phone 0277508602 or via email howard@hopewhangarei.nz

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

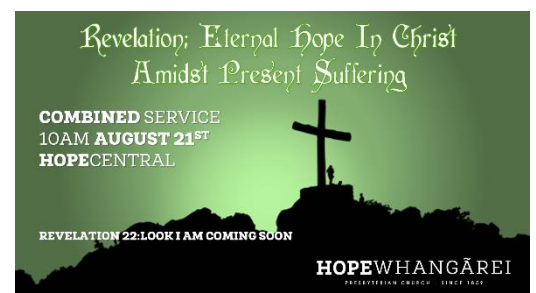


Operation Christmas Child is a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. The boxes will be collected then distributed in the name of Jesus Christ to children living in vulnerable situations. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to

children in need around the world. If you would like to be part of this blessing contact Colleen at the office via email colleen@hopewhangarei.nz or phone 4381667. **Take a look at the website as you can even pack a shoebox online for \$30 without leaving your home!!!!** www.operationchristmaschild.org.nz

Combined service August 21st 10:00am HopeCentral

We have been working our way through the book of Revelation in a series of three sections. We looked at the initial vision of Jesus the letters to the seven churches and the vision of heaven in chapter 4 before Christmas last year. After a break for Christmas and the January holidays a series on chapters 5-12 before Easter. Then after a break between Easter and Pentecost, where we looked at a series on The Lord's Prayer and for the last month and a half we have been finishing off chapters 13-20 of Revelation. On Sunday August 21st we will be having a combined service at HopeCentral to celebrate the final instalment of this series. To share with one another what the spirit has been encouraging us with as we've looked at this long series and to celebrate and hear from Revelation 21. Come join us.



If transport is an issue please let us know here at the office and we can arrange for some transport. Particularly from Onerahi and Tikipunga.

CTN Spring gathering September 17th 9:30am-2pm HopeCentral



We will be hosting the CTN spring gathering here at HopeWhangarei on Saturday September 17th. It is open to all who would like to come along. Opening at 9:30am with worship and communion. Then a key note address from Rev Dr Stuart Lange on the essentials of a Growing Church. Stuart as well as being one of New Zealand's foremost church historians has also pastored a thriving Presbyterian Church in West Auckland for well over twenty years. A church that is involved in planting and

replanting churches in growing areas and that has embraced the challenge of the very multicultural environment of Massey and its surrounding areas. In the afternoon there will be Churches Together Northland business to attend to. Lunch is \$10 and you'll need to register at the office by September 14th.

Blessing

Psalm 149 is the second to last of the psalter and it starts and finishes with that invitation to Praise the Lord Hallelujah. It starts off as a normal hymn of praise, giving thanks to God. Inviting people to praise God with a new song and with music and dancing. Because of his great care for his people. Then in verse 8 it sort of takes a bit of a turn and in its most well known verses talks of God's people with the high praises of God in their mouths and a two edged sword in their hands, dealing justice and vengeance to the nations.

We are not comfortable with the military imagery there, some people think the psalm looks back at Israel's past, God's saving his people from Egypt, then his being with them as they conquered Canaan. Others suggest that for Israel as a small nation caught between the various big empires of the day, God's presence and care and their ability to defend themselves were very much linked. Of course the idea of a two edged sword is picked up later in the New Testament to speak of God's word, which is sharper than any two edged sword (Hebrews 4:12, revelation 19:15) and as the sword of the spirit (Ephesians 6:17).

While it may spiritualise the psalm a bit the key idea behind the psalm seems to be that as God's people we not only have God's praise on our lips but we also are willing to live in a way that we put our hand to being about God's purposes in the World as well. To sing a new song is not just a nice new melody, but a way of saying we live a new way as well.

Anyway here is the blessing from Psalm 149 for this week from v4-5. From their beds seems to convey the idea of being able to go off to sleep and wake up in the assurance of God's abiding presence and care and being with his people.

For the Lord takes delight in his people;

he crowns the humble with victory.

5 Let his faithful people rejoice in this honour
and sing for joy on their beds.

E manako ana hoki a Ihowā ki tāna iwi:

māna e whakaataahua te hunga māhaki ki te whakaoranga.

⁵ Kia koa te hunga tapu i runga i te korōria:

kia hāmama rātou i te hari i runga i ō rātou moenga.

Blessing

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGĀREI

August 9th 2022

PS: - Colleen wanted something bright and colourful this week for our photo. I was down at Onerahi after church on Sunday just unwinding and spending some quite time, when I came across a Kotare (Sacred kingfisher) just sitting on the side of Beach Road. Normally they don't let you get close, but as I got out of the car I think the rain dampened down the sound of the car door. So I was able to get quite close. You'll notice the rain drops like jewels on its head and back.



