

Dear Friends,

September 1st is the official start of spring in the southern hemisphere, and with it there sort of comes a sigh of relief. The days are noticeably longer, the garden is starting to bloom again after the winter hiatus. Hopefully it means the winter ailments (made more significant this year with the lingering effects of COVID) will abate, and there is definitely the promise of new life. As I've gone out with my camera, I've noticed the Herons are in their breeding plumage, Torea (Oystercatchers) have started to pair up and stake out territories along the foreshore, and the male Tuturiwhatu (New Zealand dotterels) are resplendent in their bright orange colour, parading up and down the sand dunes trying to impress the ladies.

It's a good time for us to take time in our services over September to thank God for the wonder of all he has created. So September at Hope is 'the season of creation'. But also as part of that celebration we will be looking at how creation care fits into our Christian faith and life as well. With the rise of the awareness of such challenges as Climate Change and the huge impact humanity has had on the environment, it is good to be challenged about how we live and what we believe can make a positive difference.

The Presbyterian church of Aotearoa New Zealand lists its five faces of mission, how we make Jesus Christ known, as

- Teaching and nurturing people in Christian faith
- Loving service responding to human need
- Proclaiming the gospel
- Seeking to transform society
- Caring for God's creation

We don't often speak of the place creation care holds in the mission. As an evangelical, I'd want to put proclaiming the gospel at the top of the list (mind you I'm happy that it is where it is as that says it is central to all we do, not just down the list). As I was writing this part of the email I couldn't help but think of the great Christian politician William Wilberforce whose faith led him to champion both the movement for the abolition of slavery in England and also the establishment of the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals (the RSPCA). He also supported many education and missional moves as well.

During September I've asked our preaching team to look at an aspect of creation they are passionate about, and speak to us about how faith connects to that, how it connects them to the creator and how caring for creation fits into their Christian faith.

Here are the notices.

### [Worship at HopeWhangarei Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September](#)

Come join us for worship this Sunday at one of our sites.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - The Season of Creation: Oceans (Dennis Thorne)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - The season of Creation: Birds (Howard Carter)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - The season of Creation: Commitment to creation care (Shane Jansen)

## Zoom service Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>

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.

## Acts of kindness and being neighbourly with the Central City Chaplain

Do you have spare spring flowers in your garden? Are you baking batches of Biscuits? Elaine Holwell, our Central City Chaplain is looking for bunches of flowers and/or biscuits to be able to bless the people she visits on Tuesdays in the CBD. It is a simple act of kindness and being neighbourly and it opens doors and breaks down barriers and builds relationships in the community. If you have an overabundance of flowers in your garden or your biscuit barrel and are happy to bring some to HopeCentral on Monday (before 1pm) or on Tuesday morning before 9:30am they will be given to people as a gift. We are not looking for a huge push on a specific day or great amounts, a small offering can have a great effect.

## Alpha Course Congregational Survey (see attached to pastoral email)

Many thanks for those who have answered so far.

**Even if you have never done Alpha or can't be involved, we still value your opinion.**

**Please can you return your answers to the Church office by Wednesday Sept 7th**

## Volunteers for morning tea roster very much needed

Due to illness and some people being away on holiday we are looking for 2 to 3 new volunteers to help out on the roster. We do our best to only have people rostered on once every 6 weeks. If this is something you think you can help with we would so appreciate it. Please contact Colleen at the office. Thankyou

## CTN Spring gathering September 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-2pm HopeCentral



We will be hosting the CTN spring gathering here at HopeWhangarei on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>. 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. As well as Stuart being one of New Zealand's foremost church historians he 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Blessing

Psalm 8 is one of the amazing creation psalms, giving thanks to god for what he has made. It speaks of the vast array of the night sky, star fields and galaxy swirls and also that we too are created and given a role of being vice regents over the creatures of the world, agents of God's reign.

It is a psalm that starts and finishes with praise to our creator as we look and see all that he has made

"Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

"E Ihowā, e tō mātou Ariki,

anō te nui o tōu ingoa i te whenua katoa!"

Join with us this month in giving thanks to God for what he has made.

*Howard Carter*

**SENIOR MINISTER**

**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

August 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

*PS:-* Onerahi is home to a very rare and almost unique bird. It is a leucistic Torea or a white variable Oystercatcher. It's known as Ma mite ma is Te reo for white and mite can mean little one, but I also think it's rather ironic as marmite is a very black well known spread in New Zealand, and oystercatchers are usually black or black with some white. If you are round Onerahi you can often see him off in the distance.

