

Dear friends,

It was good for Kris and I to get away last week. Kris of course is a math's teacher at Te Kamo High School so we tend to try and have time off together in the school holidays. It was an interesting contrast of venues for our holiday. We spent two nights and a day in the very centre of Auckland in an apartment on the viaduct basin, surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the city, the constant drone of traffic and people passing by. The view from our window was dominated by car parking buildings and the Sky Tower. It was great to walk round the harbour edge, look at the boats, to stop at a restaurant for dinner, then catch up with our Auckland family.

Then we spent a couple of nights down at Kawhia, overlooking the mouth of the Aotea Harbour. Our view a panorama across the Wild West coast and back round over the hills to Pirongia. In the couple of breaks in the clouds we saw the stars glistening in the night sky, our sound track was the pound of waves on the Aotea harbour bar. We hardly saw a single soul, and had a good long walk along the harbour side, this time deserted black sand beach.

Psalm 147 is the second of the five psalms that bring the whole psalter (the book of Psalms) to a crescendo of praise. It starts and finishes by inviting us to alleluia, to praise the LORD. The reasons given in Psalm 147 are God's goodness to his people. A couple of lines stood out from our trip. "He covers the sky with clouds and supplies the earth with rain. He provides food for cattle and for the young ravens" (v8, 9) and we certainly saw a lot of that. It is good to see a blue sky as I sit at my desk to write this, after the weekend's storms. "He determines the number of the stars and calls them by name" (v 4) It was good to have some time and a place to look up and enjoy the stars again. I was reminded of the fact that when we first moved up to Whangarei, over three years ago that one of the first things I noticed was you can see the stars at night here. I was pleased in our holiday this year we avoided the snow and hail mentioned in v16 and 17, a couple of years ago we had a holiday mid-winter in the Central Hawkes Bay and ended up being snowed in.

It's not just a nature Psalm and yes we praise God because of the provision in nature, but also the psalm talks of healing the broken hearted and binding up their wounds. Bringing exiles back to the land, re-establishing a city. Providing us a way in which to live (revealing his word to Jacob and his law and decrees to Israel (v19)). I did experience something of God's restoration and encouragement over the holiday, as I sit down to write this I want to praise the Lord for revealing his word, his living word Jesus Christ, for bringing us out of exile, as we are drawn into being God's people together because of Jesus Christ and his life death and resurrection. Hallelujah, Praise the LORD.

Here are the notices...

[Worship Sunday July 31st](#)

This week is a special week. We are taking a break from our series *Revelation: Eternal Hope In Christ amidst present Suffering*. Being the fifth Sunday in the month we have a Gospel and healing service, this month it's at HopeOnerahi and HopeTikipunga. At HopeCentral we are also going to be doing something a bit different. In the service we will be looking at what I've called "Whispers of the way forward". We will be talking about and with people who are involved in possible ways forward for us as a church. We will record the service and the interviews and message for the whole parish and put it online.

Here are the times for the services

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Gospel and Healing Service (John McGregor)

9:30am @ HopeCental - Whispers of a way forward (Howard Carter)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Gospel and Healing Service (Lorne Campbell)

Gospel and healing Services – This Sunday July 31st at Onerahi (9:30am) and Tikipunga (10am)

Rev Frances McNutt, a renowned minister of healing once wrote “ *My own experience leads me to the conclusion that (divine) healing is the most convincing demonstration to most people that God is with us – that He is not out there beyond the reach of human compassion*” (p24 Healing)

This Sunday is an opportunity for each of us to bring a friend to hear about God’s love and healing power ... and to step into the realm of faith and ask God to heal bodies, minds and spirits. Why not ask a friend to join you at one of our two healing services.

Service times are:

- Sunday July 31st - Hope Onerahi at 9:30am. Lorne Campbell preaching, Colleen Poyner testifying
- Sunday July 31st - Hope Tikipunga at 10:00am John McGregor preaching, Ray Evans testifying.

Zoom service July 24th

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

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. 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

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.



Combined Churches Citywide prayer meeting.

Sunday July 31st at Kamo Baptist Church.

This Sunday evening at Kamo Baptist

Paid in full!

Just to let everyone know that Maurice Robinson had his coffee paid in full yesterday at BOB ... (a promise, you might recall, made in last week's pastoral email!).

Blessing

A reminder from Psalm 147 as our blessing today.

The LORD delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

E manako ana a Ihowā ki te hunga e wehi ana i a ia,
ki te hunga e tūmanako ana ki tōna aroha.

We often see 'fear' the LORD as a negative but the word in Hebrew has more the idea of reverence and respect. Here in Hebrew poetry we see the rhyming of ideas not lines and the reason for reverencing God is because of his unfailing love.

Blessing

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER
HOPEWHANGĀREI

July 26th 2022



PS: - it was interesting to see swans on the foreshore of Kawhia harbour. This image is called a Swan Lake pose ironically at the seaside.