

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Acts chapter 2 starts 'When the day of Pentecost came they were all together in one place... all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...' Now I've left a few verses and occurrences out as I've put those two extracts together. Mainly the visual and audio symbols of theophany (God turning up) and some of the results (speaking in all the languages of the nations represented in Jerusalem at the time). But I wanted to focus on the fact that at Pentecost we gather together to remember what really is the birthday of the church... and the empowering of God's people to be Jesus witnesses as he commissioned them to be.

It however is not just remembering a past event it is our present and future hope as God's people and that He would continually fill all of us afresh with his Spirit enabling us to witness to the truth of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Like those first believers in what they said and how they lived. Peter filled with the Spirit stood up and proclaimed Jesus in front of a massive crowd in Jerusalem's street where as before he had denied Christ when confronted by a servant girl in front of a fire. Acts 2 finishes with a wonderful quick sketch of the life of the early church in Jerusalem, where they devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, prayer, and fellowship and cared for the poor and saw people come to faith, and the Spirit performing signs and wonders. Now I'm not sure that God is calling each of us to be a street preacher but I think that with the Holy Spirit's enabling we are all called to be witnesses. Arch Bishop Justin Welby in his introduction video to the Thy Kingdom Come season of Pray this year put it so well when he said " A witness is one who when called upon tells what they have seen and heard, and a witness also lives out of the truth they know."

Please pray this week for God to meet you and us as a church in a fresh way this Pentecost, to continue to empower and enable us to witness to Christ, to fulfil our mission of connecting people with God and with one another' and thus see our vision of being a flourishing Christian Community come to fruition, more and more.

Here are the notices



Worship Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost: 10am  
Combined Service at HopeCentral

There is only one service this Sunday 10am at HopeCentral. We look forward to seeing you as we gather to celebrate Pentecost together.

We will be celebrating communion together at that service and praying for each other to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Zoom service 10:00am May 28th

The zoom service will be the 10am combined service from HopeCentral.

The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84819102883>

If you are using the app on your phone or other device then the meeting ID is: 848 1910 2883

If you are joining by landline then dial 09 884 6780 and follow the instructions. The meeting ID is the same as for mobile devices.

If people are having any difficulties accessing zoom please let us know at the Church office and we can arrange a time to refresh people's memories.

### Congregational Meeting May 28<sup>th</sup> after the combined service at HopeCentral

After the combined service on May 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2023/24 church budget. We will make decisions relating to the change in the terms of call for Rev Lorne Campbell. Lorne will be moving to half time from July 1<sup>st</sup> in a recent email on the subject he wrote,

*"I had been wondering about this (going to part time) for some time since the end of last year.*

*When the issues of the budget came up, I felt it was time to go part time ... bearing in mind increased physical tiredness meaning we cannot do the church fellowship justice being full time and the fact that we ( Sue and I) both get a pension.*

*This also clears the way for the church to look to the future for younger staffing. I turn 69 on June 28th."*

We will also be asking the congregation for permission to apply to various sources to fundraise for the kitchen project at HopeCentral.

**The budget and other related documents** are available at all three sites or, please contact Karen for an electronic version on [karen@hopewhangarei.nz](mailto:karen@hopewhangarei.nz)

### ThyKingdomCome May 18<sup>th</sup>-May 28<sup>th</sup> daily prayer service... 12-1pm Monday-Saturday... HopeCentral

This year between ascension and Pentecost **we are asking people to pray for five family members, friends, and neighbours and/or work colleagues who don't know Christ to come to know him.**

To help you to remember to pray for people we've given everyone a piece of string at the past 2 services to tie five knots in and place around their wrist or in their pocket or purse, to remind them to pray for those people.

**We will also be holding daily prayer services at HopeCentral from 12:00-1pm Monday to Saturday starting Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>.** A time of quiet and not so quite prayer based around the Lord's Prayer. Each day will have a focus of something to give thanks to God for as well. Plus a devotional video from church leaders around the world to help us focus on prayer.

Thy Kingdom Come is a season of Prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. It was originated by the Arch bishops of Canterbury and York to encourage the church to pray for people to come to Christ and for the renewal of the Church. Since 2016 it has become a

worldwide phenomenon with churches in over 120 countries and across all denominations and styles of churches (from Catholic to Brethren, from Pentecostal to Orthodox, independent house churches to well established church parishes) joining together to pray for the Holy Spirit to move in the church and for people to come to Christ.

### June, July, August Roster

Please see attached the roster for our Sunday services at HopeCentral. We have a new section for the zoom camera and back office host included as well. Thank you to all for your willingness to serve when you are able.

TBC on roster is short for "To be confirmed"

Thank you Colleen

### Winter Sermon Series: One Anothering: The Spirit Filled Art of Christian Community

Starting on Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> in our Sunday worship at all three sites we will be exploring the topic of One anothering... Jesus called us to 'love one another as I have loved you' and this is an inspirational and aspirational hope at the centre of our Christian living, the one anothering sayings in the Epistles help us to put that into practise. Epistles written to churches struggling with coming together in Christ from across the spectrum of the cultural divides of their day. Giving practical advice on how as this diverse group of people can come together as one and love one another amidst everyday life with its difficulties and disagreements.



### Hope Tikipunga Challenge 2023



The past four years we have had a challenge to support Family Works (Presbyterian Support)

**2023 - Any knitting/crochet is acceptable. We will have a morning tea on Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup> at Hope Tikipunga** and will invite a representative from Family Works to come along and receive the projects.

**There are several ways you can contribute**

Crochet a small rug, Knit Peggy squares and sew together, Polar fleece is a good option, Patchwork throws are popular or you might like to donate

some wool for someone to use.

**Enquiries to: Helen McGregor 027 437 3016 or Kaye Anderson 021 109 9002**



**Coming up ... a ladies morning tea**

**Hope Central 8<sup>th</sup> July - 9-30am**

Our speaker will be Helen Blaxland speaking about her time in Cambodia and her work in Hospice Whangarei - All welcome - Keep this date free ladies!!!

## Blessing

Sometimes being excited about the Holy Spirit and praying for a fresh infilling can come across a little like being an excited Labrador pup. But we pray and ask because Jesus himself encourages us to do so. We pray and we ask because God promised to pour out his spirit on his people. So let me end this email with Jesus words... A passage we are more used to from Matthew's Gospel that we forget the final line that appears in Luke's gospel... "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" ... let's Ask, knock and Seek.

*"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*

*"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Ko tāku kupu anō tēnei ki a koutou, īnoi, ā ka hoatu ki a koutou; e rapu, ā ka kite koutou; pātukia, ā, ka uakina ki a koutou. Ka whiwhi hoki ngā tāngata katoa ina īnoi; ka kite ina rapu; ka uakina ki te tangata e pātuki ana.

Ko tēhea matua o koutou ki te īnoia e tāna tama tētahi taro, e hoatu rānei ki a ia he kāmaka? ki te īnoia he ika, e hoatu rānei ki a ia he nākahi hei ika? Ki te īnoia he hua manu, e hoatu rānei ki a ia he kopiona? Ki te mea ko koutou, hunga kino nei, e mātau ana ki te hoatu mea papai ki ā koutou tamariki: tērā noa ake te hōmaitanga o te Wairua Tapu e tō koutou Matua i te rangi ki te hunga e īnoi ana ki a ia.

Howard Carter

SENIOR **MINISTER**

**HOPEWHANGĀREI**

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023

PS:-

"Let everything that has breathe Praise the Lord."

Psalm 150

A White faced Heron at Onerahi... in prayer or song (perhaps)... or in reality it may be a yawn.

