

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to listen to Andrew Katay, the executive for content and ministry for City to City Australia, at our Northern Presbytery meeting. As well as his role with City to City Andrew is also the senior minister of Christ Church inner west Anglican church in Sydney. Andrew was talking about the heart of the gospel and church revitalisation. What Andrew said was very helpful and challenging.

It is easy for us to fall into thinking of Christianity as a faith where we do good to earn God's favour but what transforms it what revitalises our faith is when we remember and live out of the fact that our faith is a relationship based on Love.

At the centre of the gospel is God's grace; God's great love for us, shown in the sending of his Son Jesus to live and to die for us, enabling us to be reconciled to himself and by God raising Jesus to life again enabling us to share that resurrection life, in and with Christ. The Christian life then is living out of gratitude for what God has done for us. Katay said that discipleship, being a disciple of Jesus, is about love. It is a reorientation of the loves in our lives, because of God's love for us. We then Love God, and Love one another and our neighbour because we have experienced that love and grace from God. Jesus summed up the whole of the law with the two commandments 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, all you soul and all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself.' In John 14:15 Jesus says 'If you love me you will keep my commandments' and goes on to promise to send the Holy Spirit, another advocate like Jesus to help enable and empower us to do that. In 1 john 4:10-11 John sums it up by saying, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Last Sunday the church that I grew up in Titirangi Presbyterian Church closed its doors for the last time. For me it's been a time of reflection and giving thanks for the people and ministry of that Church who were a vital part of my faith. Amidst the myriad of memories that came to mind: the clomping sound your feet made as you jumped across the plywood bridge over a creek to the longdrop toilets behind our Sunday school hall on South Titirangi road, my first ever date with a girl, sanding the beams of the then new church building under construction and also the night I became a Christian at a family camp run by Titirangi Pressy. Relevant to what I am writing about this morning is a children's talk by Rev David Sage about the true meaning of Joy. He used it as an acronym for priorities of love in our lives... Jesus first, Others second and then Yourself.

Here are the notices,

Worship Sunday March 10th

Come join us for worship this Sunday at one of our three sites, up at Tikipunga, in the centre of Whangarei or out at Onerahi.

10:00am	HopeTikipunga	Mark 6:6-13 (Lorne Campbell)
9:30am	HopeCentral	Mark 6:30-44 (Kris Middendorf-Carter)
9:30am	HopeOnerahi	Mark 6:1-5 (Howard Carter)

Zoom service Sunday March 10th

The zoom service this week will be a streaming of the HopeCentral 9:30am service.

Here is the link for the service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429062440>

If you are using the zoom app on a mobile device or smart phone the **Meeting ID is 83429062440**

If you are joining by landline, dial 09 8846780 and follow the Instructions, again the meeting ID is **83429062440**.

There is a waiting room and then our host will let you into the live stream.

Please feel free to stay after the service and spend time chatting with other folk attending via zoom.

The ability to have this contact with each other is one of the reasons we use zoom as a platform, rather than just live streaming.

Please Note: WE have managed to sort our sound issues for these services. Zooms noise cancelling software seems to have been the issue. Thank you for people's feedback and patience as we've worked on this.

Easter services

Easter is early this year. Good Friday is March 29th easter Sunday March 31st.

This year at HopeWhanagrei we will be celebrating Holy week and easter with services at our three sites but also with special combined services as well.

March 24th Palm Sunday at all our three sites (Mark 11:1-11)

Wednesday March 27th 7pm Service of the shadows (Tenebrae service) HopeCentral

Friday March 29th 9:30am (or meet outside Church unlimited for a walk down to HopeCentral) for the combined churches Good Friday service in the HopeCentral greenspace.

Sunday March 31st Easter Sunday (At all three sites) Mark 16:1-8

Weekly prayer meeting. Tuesdays 1pm-2pm – for community outreach

Come along and join in praying for our outreaches into the community each week on Tuesdays from 1pm-2pm **THIS WEEK IT IS AT HOPECENTRAL** next week Tuesday March 12th it will be at HOPETIKIPUNGA.

Jesus said: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field; Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."

We will be praying for various ministries where we have community contact e.g. The Court Chaplaincy; The Inner-city Chaplaincy; Alpha 2024 ...

Everyone welcome ...

Offerings

Giving for the financial year 1st July 2023 to 29 February 2024 is \$143,994 against a budget of \$150,328.

A reminder that the end of the tax financial year is coming up end of March after which you can submit your donations receipts for a rebate with the Inland Revenue Department.

If you have any questions around this, please contact me on karen@hopewhangarei.nz or phone the office 9-2pm Tuesday to Friday.

Prayer Care refresher and training. Hope Central. Saturday March 23rd, 9:30am-11am.

For everyone involved in the prayer care ministry at each of our services across our three sites, there is a prayer care refresher and training morning on Saturday March 23rd at Central.

Please come and be refreshed, encouraged and informed.

Morning tea will be provided.

Journeying Together - The Churches Together Northland Autumn gathering - Saturday March 16th @ HopeCentral



HopeWhangarei will be hosting the Autumn gathering of Churches together Northland on Saturday March 16th at HopeCentral. We are blessed to have the principal of KCML (Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership), Rev Dr Geoff New with us for the day Geoff will be running to half day seminars; one on pastoral care and the other on conflict resolution. These are good for people involved in ministry and leadership in the church.

Please register with colleen at the church office

(094381667 or colleen@hopewhangarei.nz by Tuesday March 12th if you are interested in attending (\$10 to cover lunch).

The Hope Project 2024

Hope Project 2024 is a wonderful opportunity for all believers, churches and pastors in Whangarei to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ – The Hope Project has published a booklet with testimonies and reflections on the gospel to be distributed to all households in New Zealand around easter time. If you would like to help distribute these booklets in your neighbourhood here is how you can do it.

Step 1 - Register - Click [here](#) to select more of the Whangarei Zones (117 in total) where you want to deliver the Hope Booklets. Fill out the online sheet and please make sure everyone watches the safety briefing video as indicated with a link on the sheet. You can also register [here](#) as a volunteer, but please make sure you select the zones as indicated in previous sentence.

Step 2 Collect - ...your Hope Booklets from Church Unlimited during office hours. The back doors by the pellet of booklets will be open 8:30am – 4:30pm Mon – Thursday and all Sunday afternoons. Please take note of the following when collecting booklets

- 130 booklets per Zone (multiply number of Zones by 130 and collect only the correct nr. of booklets for your distribution)
- 640 booklets in a box

Step 3 Distribute – The aim is to finish distribution by 31 March (Easter Weekend). Where the boundary line is located along a street, please only deliver your own side of the street inside your zone. (The other side of the street will be delivered by someone else).

For more info, click on these links:

[30 second What is Hope Project?](#)

[View Hope Booklet 2024 here.](#)

Blessing

We started by looking at the heart of the gospel so let me finish with a reminder from John's gospel of the amazing truth of God and his love for us shown in his son Jesus Christ. (John 3:16)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Koia anō te aroha o te Atua ki te ao, hōmai ana e ia tāna Tama kotahi, kia kāhore ai e ngaro te tangata e whakapono ana ki a ia, engari kia whiwhi ai ki te ora tonu.

Howard Carter

SENIORMINISTER
HOPEWHANGAREI
February 27th 2024

PS:- A Torea (Variable Oystercatcher) sleeps with eyes open at hightide on the Onerahi foreshore.

