



Welcome to Grace Presbyterian Church, Taupo

“In Christ alone, we follow, serve and reach out.”

Order of Service – 19th January 2025.

Are you New to Church? We understand that attending a church meeting can be an uncomfortable experience for many people. We don't want you to feel anxious. Our style is relaxed and friendly and nobody will be put on the spot or asked to do something unfamiliar. *You can simply attend and observe or participate to the degree you are comfortable.* You do not have to be a Christian; this is an opportunity, in a non-threatening environment to learn more about who Jesus is and why we want to follow him. If you don't feel like praying, singing, or even standing up you don't need to; no one will think less of you. We will try to explain some aspects of the meeting as we go but we realise that some of our practices may seem strange. If you have any questions about why we do any of the things we do please don't hesitate to ask anyone who's involved with the service. Our pastor would love to answer any questions you have about the service or the message.

Thanks for joining with us this morning. We hope you find the time to be both encouraging and thought provoking. Please join us after the service for coffee, tea and snacks.

MEETING, GREETING & WELCOME

Call to Worship: Psalms 34:8-9 & 22 ¹

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!.....

The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Prayer – Approach and Adoration. ²

A responsive prayer of confession, repentance and assurance. Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths [we] cry to you, O Lord!

People: *O Lord, hear [our] voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of [our] pleas for mercy!*

Leader: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: *But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.*

Leader: [We] wait for the Lord, [our] souls wait, and in his word [we] hope.

People: *[Our] souls wait for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

Leader: O [church] hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

ALL: *And he will redeem [his people] from all [their] iniquities.*

A time of private, silent and personal confession and thanksgiving.

¹ All passages of Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.

² *Adoration:* the act of paying honour, as to a divine being; worship; reverent homage; fervent and devoted love.

Songs of Adoration & Praise:

- *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery* – Matt Boswell & Matt Papa
- *I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)* - Shane & Shane

A responsive Profession of Faith: New City Catechism³

Question 29. *How can we be saved?*

Answer: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

[Reference: Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast].

Pastoral Prayer: This will normally include opportunity for you to share things you are thankful for or want to ask God for. Though the Pastor is the one who prays aloud we can all pray together and express in our hearts the things that we want to bring to a gracious God. In this way too we practice love and care for one another.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-15

Dedication of offering and prayer for the children and the Message:

Giving to the Lord is a free will offering from the hearts of those who believe in Jesus for salvation. No one will be asked to give; this is simply between you and the Lord.¹

Message – Series Title: “The Gospel of Mark – A Call to Discipleship”

#1 “The Overture” – Mark 1:1-15

As we follow through the text of this “Overture” we will consider that the ultimate purpose of the Gospel of *Mark* is to legitimise Jesus’ universal and authoritative call to discipleship.

Open discussion and Questions

A Song in response to the Word:

- *In Christ Alone* - Adrienne Liesching

BENEDICTION⁴ - Revelation 1:5&6. *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Notices:

- Tuesday 21st. 7:30pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting. *DEEPER*. Chapter 6 – at the Allen’s home.

Contact Us: Pastor Ian: 027 398 1511. - Email: Info@gracetaupo.org.nz - Website: gracetaupo.org.nz

¹ *Grace Presbyterian Church Taupo - Giving Information*

Throughout the Bible the giving of tithes and offerings has always been seen as a part of the believer’s worship to God. Apart from other charitable giving it’s important for Christians to help financially sustain the ministry of the local church they are a part of. If you wish to become a regular giver at Grace Taupo, please talk with our Church Treasurer Peter for more information. The Grace Presbyterian Church Taupo bank account number is 02-0428-0326706-000. Or, if you wish to contribute, you could use the offering box at the back table.

³ The *New City Catechism* (Crossway Publishing. 2017) is based on and adapted from Calvin’s Geneva Catechism, the Westminster Longer & Shorter Catechisms and especially the Heidelberg Catechism. A Catechism, meaning “oral instruction”, is a helpful means of learning Gospel truths using the method of memorizing and understanding questions and answers.

⁴ *Benediction:* literally, “good word” or “speak well”; a verbal blessing pronounced in God’s name by the Pastor, at the conclusion of the service, sending us forth from this special time as we continue our lives seeking to know and follow Jesus.