#### **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

#### *Matawhero Church – Church Lane*

#### *St Andrew’s Church and Community Centre:*

#### *176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

#### [*www.standrewsgis.org.nz*](http://www.standrewsgis.org.nz)

The FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT

And HARVEST THANKSGIVING

#### ***At MATAWHERO Historic Church 26 March 2023***

***We welcome all visitors to our service this morning.***

***Please sign the Visitors’ Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who stand at the back of the church.***

***A toilet is located in the foyer.***

***In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes, especially in the hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language with which you are most comfortable.***

***BOLDED WORDS are for congregational response.***

***Where there is an asterisk \* please stand.***

**Order of Service**.

**\*\*\*Welcome and Greeting:**

*We greet our visitors and friends alike.*

*in the name of Jesus Christ, head of the Church Universal*.

**\*\*\*Call to Worship:** (adapted from Psalm 130.)

*L : We must learn to trust in the Lord.*

**All : From a sea of confusions, I will call out to him.**

**I know that he listens, therefore I will seek His help.**

*L : If You kept count of my indiscretions and errors,*

*You would have departed from me long ago.*

**All : Instead, You forgive, and You show me mercy.**

**I must learn to put my trust fully in the Lord my God.**

**Blessed be His Name for ever and ever, AMEN.**

**\*\*\*1-PRAISE : Come ye thankful people come CH4 233**

**Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home:**

**all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;**

**God our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:**

**come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest-home.**

**All this world is God’s own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;**

**wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;**

**first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:**

**Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;**

**from his field shall in that day all offences purge away;**

**give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;**

**but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come; bring thy final harvest home:**

**gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;**

**there, for ever purified, in thy garner to abide:**

**come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest-home!**

**\*\*\*Prayer of Approach and Confession.**

*L : Almighty God, ever living, ever present Creator Spirit,*

*when we consider ourselves and our place*

*within the whole of*  the cosmos around us

*we are brought face to face with You.*

**All : You have placed us in the midst of an island of plenty**

**yet we feel a sense of insecurity all around us.**

**the traumas of cultural changes, and new technologies.**

**These bring about continual flux and changes.**

**Yet Your Word always accompanies us wherever we are.**

**It alone speaks comfort and peace to our minds**

**amidst all the confusions which swirl around us.**

*L : You have revealed Yourself to the human race*

*through prophets and faith filled people.*

*In former days, You spoke Your Word through Jesus of Nazareth.*

*Through Him, we have learned about forgiveness for our mistakes.*

*we have been taught how we should live with one another..*

**All : Your continued love for us we have not fully acknowledged:**

**Your Creation around us we just accept daily.**

**yet we have abused Your Creation un-thinkingly.**

**Instead of prudent harvesting, we have sown other seeds:**

**Potent seeds of naked power and violent aggression,**

**The very seeds of war, destruction, and devastation.**

*L : Lord God, for all these things we now begin to be aware of,*

*we seek forgiveness from You and for future generations.*

**All : We admit that relationships have failed between peoples;**

**throughout the world, there is distrust and wars:**

**there is pain and famine, as well as suffering everywhere..**

**With Your healing forgiveness, empower us to be a people.**

**committed to living in harmony with one another,**

**sharing that same love and care for others.**

*L : In God, there is forgiveness, assurance, and hope.*

*Therefore. live joyfully ‘as God is with us’ in all these times.*

**All : Truly. Truly. This is the spoken Word of Christ. Amen.**

**\*\*\*2-PRAISE : \*For the fruits of all creation CH4 231 Tune 562**

**For the fruits of all creation thanks be to God:**

**for these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;**

**for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,**

**silent growth while we are sleeping**

**future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour, God’s will be done;**

**in the help we give our neighbour, God’s will is done;**

**in our world-wide task of caring**

**for the hungry and despairing**

**in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;**

**for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;**

**for the wonders that astound us,**

**for the truths that still confound us,**

**most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God**

**READING : The Prophet Ezekiel : Ch. 17 : (1 -14 )**

**\*\*\*3-PRAISE : \* God, companion of our journey HS32**

**God, companion of our journey,  
        help in times of dark despair,  
comforter in times of sadness,  
    present in the joy we share.**

**Thanks we give for each new challenge,  
    praise we sing for this new start.  
Guide us in the path we’ve chosen,  
    may your love-song fill our heart.  
  
Lord of earth and sky and ocean,  
    God of great and little things,  
creatures furred and feathered know you,  
    yours the tune the bellbird sings.  
  
All creation bows before you,  
    conscious of the life you give.  
May aroha unify us,  
    God in whom we move and live.  
  
Take our lives and use our talents;  
    give us freedom to explore  
all the ways that we may serve you,  
    trust and love you ever more.**

**READING : Gospel of Matthew: Ch. 11 : ( 1 -16.**)

**\*\*\*4-PRAISE: \*We Plough the fields and scatter** CH4 229 Wir Pflugen

1. **We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,**

**but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand;**

**God sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,**

**the breezes and the sunshine and soft refreshing rain.**

***Refrain* All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;**

**We thank you Lord, We thank you Lord, for all your love.**

1. **You only are the Maker of all things near and far;**

**You paint the wayside flower, You light the evening star;**

**the winds and waves obey You; by You the birds are fed;**

**much more to us, Your children, You give our daily bread.**

1. **We thank You then, our Maker, for all things bright and good,**

**the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.**

**Accept the gifts we offer for all Your love imparts,**

**And that, which you desire most, our humble, thankful hearts**

**SHARING IN INTERPRETATION “Uncertainty??”**

**CHOIR: ANTHEM When evenings shorten HS 147**

When evenings shorten and grow cool,

as grapes turn purple on the vine,

as golden grain is safely stored,

we see again our Easter sign.

As rowans fade along the hill,

and bush birds come to us for food,

in rain, or mist or bitter chill

we meet again our Easter God.

As trees grow bare, we see the trace

of life’s new buds along the bough.

We do not need to wait for spring;

our Easter Lord is with us now.

So let the southern Church rejoice!

As colour flames from hill and plain

we come in confidence to meet

the Christ wo dies – yet lives again!

**\*\*\*Offertory and \*Affirmation.**

*L : Lord, we do not only place our offerings of money*

*and these gifts from our storehouse of food before you.*

*we place our hearts and our whole selves for service.*

**All : We affirm that we wish to be the children of God.**

**called to listen to others, called to act for those who suffer.**

*L : We affirm that it is Jesus of Nazareth*

*who has shown us which path to follow.*

**All :We are reminded that: “… If anyone would follow Him,**

**then they must forget ‘self’ and take up their own cross.”**

**May Your ever-present Holy Spirit, help us do this thing."**

*L : Help us to build true fellowship -- with You and with others.*

**All : Help us to bring dignity to others,**

**revealing Your love in true partnership with others.**

**Let Hope begin to shine on the faces of all Your people.**

**In Jesus' Name. we ask you to strengthen our faith. AMEN.**

**Prayers of Intercession.**

**\*\*\*FINAL PRAISE : \*God whose almighty word**. CH4 112

**God, whose almighty word**

**chaos and darkness heard,**

**and took their flight;****hear us,**

**we humbly pray,**

**and, where the gospel-day**

**sheds not its glorious ray,**

**let there be light.**

**Saviour, who came to bring,**

**on your redeeming wing,**

**healing and sight,**

**health to the sick in mind,**

**sight to the inly blind,**

**now to all humankind**

**let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,**

**life-giving, holy dove,**

**Speed forth your flight;**

**move o’er the waters’ face,**

**bearing the lamp of grace,**

**and in earth’s darkest place**

**let there be light.**

**Blessed and holy Three,**

**glorious Trinity,**

**Wisdom, Love, Might,**

**boundless as ocean‘s tide**

**rolling in fullest pride,**

**through the world far wide**

**let there be light.**

**As we leave, we give each other our Lenten Blessing:**

*L : May we share this journey together*

*as pilgrims on the same journey …*

**All : We humbly go our own way, but in Christ’s company:**

**We go confidently, yet humbly, accepting Christ’s guidance.**

**We go joyfully awaiting being led by Christ’s leadership.**

**May we each go separately in Christ's world,**

**but journeying on together in Christ's name.**

***AMEN AMEN AMEN (sung.)***

#### **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

**WELCOME TO MATAWHERO CHURCH, GISBORNE**

***26 MARCH 2023 LENT 5***

**DIARY**

**SUNDAY 26** **Lent 5 Rev Dr Clive Yates Combined service**

**10.00am Matawhero Harvest Festival Celebration, and Guardian Angel**

**St Andrew’s No service**

3.00pm Sea of Faith

Monday 279.00am Walking Group

Tuesday 28 10.00am Open Door

Wednesday 299.45am mainly music

Friday 31 1.00pm Choir rehearsal

**SUNDAY 2** **Palm Sunday Rev Dr Clive Yates**

**10.00am St Andrew’s Service**

**Matawhero No service**

2.00pm Handel’s Messiah with Gisborne Choral

Society Gavin Maclean Conductor, Roy Tankersley organ

**Reminder for Easter Day**:. Please bring flowers for the flowering of the cross

Can you help with Easter Breakfast preparations and clearing?

**Note:** If you need or can offer a ride for Matawhero services please contact the office. Default meeting place St Andrew’s church 9.45 for 10am service.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 26 March  Lent 5 Elder: Val Hall | **Matawhero**  Barbara Larsen  **St Andrew’s**  No service |  |  | **N/A** |
| 2 April  Palm Sunday Elder: Seton Clare | **Matawhero**  No Service  **St Andrew’s**  Dianne Burrows | **Doon McConnochie**  Sarah McC  Cathy Porter | Trish Kwak  Wendy Morris | **S:** Hans  **V:** Linda  **C:** Don |

*St Andrew’s Church and Matawhero Historic Church: PO Box 1117 Gisborne 4040*

***Office: 06 868 5513******Hours 10-12 Tuesday – Friday***

[standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz)[www.standrewsgis.org.nz](http://www.standrewsgis.org.nz)