#### **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 FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

#### ***26 February 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.***

**\*\*WELCOME AND NOTICES** :: ( Duty Elder )

**\*\*Our Call to Worship :**

*L : "... The Lord God placed all kind of beautiful trees in His garden.*

*There were two other trees there:*

 *One of these trees – if chosen, gives abundant life.*

***All : Lord: Teach us Your ways, and to always choose aright.***

**\*\*LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER**

**\*\*1-PRAISE:** [Morning Hymn] Awake! my soul, and with the sun

**CH4 210** Thomas Ken

1. **Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.**

**2 Lord, I my vows to Thee renew,
Disperse my sins as Morning dew,
Guard my first springs of Thought and Will,
And with Thy self my Spirit fill.**

**3 Direct, control, suggest, this day,
All I design, or do, or say;
That all my Powers with all their might,
In Thy sole Glory may unite.**

 **4. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all Creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**>>Prayer of Confession, and Reconciliation.**

L :  *Let us pray. God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

 *who deigns to meet with weak disciples and onlookers alike;*

 *grant to us your forgiveness for all the things we overlook.*

**All : Forgive us when we have been heedless in our thinking,**

 **cruel in the words we have used, ashamed of our actions,**

 **indifferent in our wastefulness and greed for resources.**

 **Forgive us for wandering in paths of our own choosing,**

 **when we reject the choices that you offer to us.**

 **God of Life; in Your great love towards all Your children,**

 **grant to us forgiveness and peace of mind**.

L : *God of each new day and Spirit filled opportunity.*

 *As You created us, so You have provided for us;*

 *comfort, compassion, healing, and salvation.*

**All : Help us to know and believe**

 **that as we are all children of Your love,**

 **we always have that freedom to begin afresh yet again.**

 **As we take each step on life's journey in this marvellous world,**

 **You give us certainty and Your assurance of a guiding presence**

 **every step along the way You wish to ,lead us.**

 **Thanks be to God that this is so. AMEN.**

 **>>READING TOGETHER -- Psalm 32. (adapted © cbyates 2023)**

*L : Persons who are truly blessed*

*know the meaning of forgiveness:*

 *They are no longer plagued by past failures,*

*they are guilt free before God.*

**All : Every time we attempt to deal with our own feeling of guilt**

 **we try ignoring it, or thinking it away,**

**or by just running away,**

 **Some unseen power or feeling**

 **arises in the depth of our being**

 **and weighs us down leaving us restless and listless.**

*L: But when we face up to our own failures and confess our guilt to God,*

 *then we learn again what the assurance of forgiveness truly means.*

**All: Everyone knows these times of real darkness**

**and have felt the chill blast of life's storms and problems.**

**Yet, even in the midst of these, a small voice speaks to us saying:**

 ***"Even these things -- serve some purpose in my life's journey."***

**Heal those we have wounded; reinstate us with Your reconciliation.**

*L : The Lord speaks to us and says:*

*" I will map out the path for you to follow.*

 *I will be your teacher and keep guard over you."*

**All: The children of God can always depend upon the love of God.**

**this is why there is always light -- even in the midst of darkness;**

**that is why there is consolation -- even in the midst of sorrows.**

 **You are indeed a shield for all who put their trust in you.**

**Let me shelter safely in your protection all the days of my life.Glory be to God the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit , Amen.**

**>>2-PRAISE:** [ Repton. ] Dear Lord and Father of mankind CH4 485

**1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**2 In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**5 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

**6 Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!**

***[ In our Readings we are using the CEV Bible Translation.]***

**READING 1: Book of Genesis, Ch 2: (vs.16 -17 ) + Ch 3: (vs.1 -7).**

**READING 2:The Letter to the Romans, Ch 8: vs. 16 -19.**

 **>>** Our 'Five-minute' shared Ministries  **.**

**3-PRAISE:** [ Heinlein. ] **Forty days and forty nights, CH4 337**

 **Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide**.

**READING 3 Gospel of Matthew, Ch. 4 : vs. 1 -11.**

**ANTHEM:** [ Singing love ] He came singing love ... **WB70**

**He came singing Love, and he lived singing love;**

**he died, singing love**

**He arose in silence.**

**For the love to go on we must make it our song;**

**you and I be the singers.**

**He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;**

**he died, singing faith.**

**He arose in silence.**

**For the faith to go on we must make it our song;**

**you and I be the singers.**

**He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;**

**he died, singing hope.**

**He arose in silence.**

**For the hope to go on we must make it our song;**

**you and I be the singers.**

**He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;**

**he died, singing peace.**

**He arose is silence.**

**For the peace to go on we must make it our song;**

**you and I be the singers.**

**>>Prayers of the People: Intercession and Thanksgiving.**

**>>4-PRAISE:** [ St Elisabeth. ] Fairest Lord Jesus CH4 463

**1.Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honour,
Thou, my soul’s Glory, Joy and Crown.**

 **2. Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

 **3. Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.**

**>>SHARING IN INTERPRETATION ;**

*" Is there really such a thing as 'evil'?"*

**>>Offertory and Affirmation of Faith**.

*L : O Lord our God,*

 *Giver of Light and Love ...*

**All : It is You alone who has enabled us**

 **to be made right with You and with one another.**

 **May these gifts which we present before You,**

**be a sign of our service to each other in Christ,**

 **And help enrich the world that He died to save. Amen.**

**\*\*FINAL PRAISE:** [ Regent Sq. ] Glory be to God the Father CH4 110

**Glory be to God the Father,**

**glory be to God the Son,**

**glory be to God the Spirit, -**

**great Jehovah, Three in One!**

**Glory, glory, glory, glory**

**while eternal ages run!**

**Glory be to him who loved us,**

**washed us from each spot and stain!**

**Glory be to him who bought us,**

**made us kings with him to reign!**

**Glory, glory, glory, glory**

**to the Lamb that once was slain!**

**Glory to the King of angels,**

**glory to the Church’s King,**

**glory to the King of nations!**

**Heaven and earth, your praises bring;**

**glory, glory, glory, glory**

**to the King of Glory bring!**

**“Glory, blessing, praise eternal!’**

**Thus the choir of angels sings;**

**‘Honour, riches, power, dominion!’**

**Thus its praise creation brings;**

**glory, glory, glory, glory**

**glory to the King of kings!**

**\*\*DISMISSAL and BLESSING**

 **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.).***

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Ministers*:*** *All the people* **>>****Leader:** *Rev. Dr Clive Yates*

**\*\*Duty Elder:** *Pat Smith* **Reader:** *Danielle Lapointe*

**Director of Music:***Catherine Macdonald* **Organist:** *David Russell*

**Choir**

*Please join us for a time of fellowship and friendship in the Community Centre next door for a cup of tea or coffee, followed by a congregational meeting*

**Please remember** donations for the Love basket. Breakfast cereals very welcome

**Daily Centering prayer at noon (**12 - 12:15 pm) wherever we are whatever we are doing. Focus on key word **GPP** (for its continuing mission and life in the community)