#### **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 SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

#### ***At Matawhero Church 5 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 for Communion**

**\*\*Welcome and Greeting:** ( Duty Elder )

*L : "... God showed His love for us first:*

*whilst we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. "*

*L : Let us pray:*

*Almighty God;*

*In Christ You make all things new;*

*in Your gentle strength and wisdom,*

*You transform all our disabling weakness****.***

**All : Through the richness of Your Grace,**

**and by the renewing of our lives,**

**You encircle us with the unshakeable certainty**

**of Mercy, Hope, and Purpose; ever present in our one God: AMEN.**

\*\*L :  *Our Theme this morning speaks about ‘Pilgrimage***:**

Today, we are reflecting upon being a community together

We recognise God’s sustaining grace in our lives … so …

\*\*L Let us **sing together** words affirming our heartfelt thoughts.

**“ … Brother, sister, let me serve you,** WB68  **let me be as Christ to you,**

**pray that I may have the grace**

**to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,**

**we are travellers on the road,**

**we are here to help each other**

**walk the mile and bear the load.”**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you**

**in the night-time of your fear,**

**I will hold my hand out to you,**

**speak the peace you long to hear.**

**. I will weep when you are weeping,**

**when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you,**

**I will share your joy and sorrow**

**till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**.**

**Will you let me be your servant:,**

**let me be as Christ to you,**

**pray that I may have the grace**

**to let you be my servant too.**

**\*\*WE READ TOGETHER Psalm 126.** [Adapted © cbyates-2023]

This Psalm marks the Jews return from Exile in Babylon.

It was the fulfillment of promises made by the Prophets.

It reinforced the promise made to Abraham in Genesis today***.***

***=======================-***

*L : It was like a dream to us when the Lord’s people came home.*

*They celebrated with laughter and joyful praise*

*throughout the whole City of Zion****.***

**All : Other nations noted that the Lord had worked a miracle;**

**the Lord had indeed done great things for all His people.**

*L : The people made the streams to flow in the dry and stony places.*

**All : The people have planted their seeds amidst a flood of tears**

**but they will celebrate and shout joyfully**

**at the forthcoming harvest.**

**Come, Lord! Mar-an-ath-a Tha !  Amen.**

**\*\*1-PRAISE: Ch-4 165 [ St Anne ] O God our help in ages past**

**O God: Our help in ages past,**

**our hope for years to come,**

**our shelter from the stormy blast,**

**and our eternal home!**

**Before the hills in order stood,**

**or earth received her frame,**

**from everlasting thou art God,**

**to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight**

**are like an evening gone;**

**short as the watch that ends the night**

**before the rising sun.**

**O God, our help in ages past,**

**our hope for years to come,**

**be thou our guard while troubles last,**

**and our eternal home.**

**>>Prayer of Faith, Seeking Forgiveness.**

*L : Let us pray. Creator God,*

*God who is above and beyond all our reason and naming;*

*who has been faithful to Your people of every age and place;*

**All : ... with joy in our hearts, we worship You as our Lord.**

**the God of all our yesterdays and this day;**

**You are our hope for all our to-morrows.**

*L : Let us be glad and joyful on this day that this is so.*

**All : We seek to live out lives supported by our faith in You**

**grounded in the love and the rich memories of yesteryear.**

**We travel onwards, always searching for a future,**

**Seeking meaning and purpose, as there was in the past,**

**but always giving grateful thanks for all the gifts of today.**

*L : Let us confess before You and our friends in Christ,*

*that our faith and courage are often challenged by Your Word.*

**All : We see the cost of the upright Cross, and we avoid its shadow.**

**We realise that the Cross offers only a crown of sharp thorns.**

**We say *“We are Your servants”*, but unwittingly refuse to serve.**

**We say *“We are followers”*, but will not accept Your leadership**.

**We know we are unworthy;**

**and fall short even by our own standards.**

**Own us again, and remind us that we are acceptable in Your sight**.

*L : Remember the prayer written in* ***Psalm 67*** *so long ago:-*

*" May God be gracious unto me and bless me;*

*and make His face to shine upon me;*

*dealing tenderly with me in gracious love and charity."*

**All : Let us reach out and accept God's healing touch and assurance.**

**Let us hold firmly to our faith in Jesus' teachings.**

**Forgiven; freed: being transformed; we are still His people.**

**May Father, Son, and Spirit guide us and be praised forever. AMEN.**

**1-READING : The Book of Genesis, Ch. 12 : vs. 1 - 4a**

**>>2-PRAISE : CH-4 462 [** Tune : Dominus Regit me. ]

1. **The King of Love my Shepherd is,**

**whose goodness faileth never;**

**I nothing lack if I am his**

**and he is mine for ever.**

1. **Where streams of living water flow**

**my ransomed soul he leadeth,**

**and where the verdant pastures grow**

**with food celestial feedeth.**

1. **Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;**

**but yet in love he sought me,**

**and on his shoulder gently laid,**

**and home rejoicing brought me.**

1. **In death's dark vale I fear no ill,**

**with thee, dear Lord, beside me;**

**thy rod and staff my comfort still,**

**thy cross before to guide me.**

1. **Thou spread'st a table in my sight;**

**thy unction grace bestoweth;**

**and oh, what wonder and delight**

**from thy pure chalice floweth!**

1. **And so through all the length of days**

**thy goodness faileth never;**

**Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise**

**within thy house for ever.**

**2-READING :: Gospel of Matthew Ch. 17 : ( (1 – 9)**

**>>SHARING IN INTERPRETATION.** “…Being Transformed ..”

**>>Offertory and Affirmation of Faith**. **(Lord’s Prayer here)**

*L : ... We dedicate our offerings together with the following words.*

**All : God our Father and Creator,**

**it is Your name we worship.**

**We await Your Kingdom's presence,**

**when Your will is obeyed**

**at all times and in all places.**

**Satisfy our needs for living today.**

**Amd make it possible for us to forgive,**

**and to accept forgiveness,**

**and to avoid straying from Your ways.**

**For You have all the power and the glory forever, Amen**

**>>THE COMMUNION**

**The Invitation.**

###### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Communion Hymn CH-662**  **[*Wareham CH3 571* vs. 1 & 2 only]**

**Jesus, thou joy of Loving hearts*,***

**though Fount of life, thou Light of men,**

**from the best bliss that earth imparts**

**we turn unfilled to thee again.**

**Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;**

**thou savest those that on thee call:**

**to them that seek thee thou art good,**

**to them that find thee, all in all.**

**The Words of Institution.**

**The Breaking of the Bread and Distribution.**

The gifts from God -- for the people of God.

**>> Post-Communion Hymn CH-4 662 [*Wareham CH3 571* vs 3 & 5]**

**We taste thee, O thou living Bread,**

**and long to feast upon thee still;**

**we drink of thee, the Fountain-head,**

**and thirst our souls from thee to fill.**

**O Jesus, ever with us stay;**

**make all our moments calm and bright;**

**chase the dark night of sin away;**

**shed o’er the world thy holy light.**

**\*\*CONCLUDING PRAYER ( led by an Elder )**

*L : Creator of all, we give You thanks and praise for finding us,*

*for we had lost ourselves, and were tending to stray far off.*

*You sent Jesus to call us home to be re-united with You.*

**All : Living and dying, He declared Your love and mercy for us.**

**Dying and living, He opened the way to hope and life with You.**

**May we who have humbly shared His body and His blood today,**

**together with the saints and martyrs and loved ones of every age,**

**and those you have called to be Your family here on earth.**

**speak Your praises now and evermore,**

**through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**\*\*Final PRAISE: CH-4 182 [ Nun Danket: ]**

**Now thank we all our God,**

**with heart and hands and voices,**

**who wondrous things has done,**

**in whom this world rejoices;**

**who, from our mothers’ arms,**

**has blessed us on our way**

**with countless gifts of love,**

**and still is ours today.**

**Oh, may this bounteous God**

**through all our life be near us,**

**with ever-joyful hearts**

**and blessed peace to cheer us,**

**and keep us in his grace,**

**and guide us when perplexed,**

**and free us from all ills**

**in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God**

**Who reigns in highest heaven**

**the Father and the Son**

**the Spirit – now be given:**

**the one, eternal God,**

**whom earth and heaven adore;**

**for thus it was, is now,**

**and shall be evermore.**

**\*\*As we leave, we give each other our Lenten Blessing...**

*L : May the truths of Christ be true for us at all times;*

*may the Risen Christ always guard and guide us.*

***All : We each go our way awaiting Christ's accompanying;***

***we each go confidently accepting Christ's Lordship;***

***we each go joyfully celebrating Christ's gift of peace.***

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

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

*L : Go in peace, and serve the Lord.*

**All : Forth, in the name of Christ, we go.**

(Sung) **Amen -- Amen -- Amen.**

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