#### **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

**WELCOME TO MATAWHERO CHURCH GISBORNE**

***Matawhero Church – Church Lane***

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

***176 Cobden Street, Gisborne***

**The EVENING Before GOOD FRIDAY (MAUNDY THURSDAY)**

**At Matawhero Historic Church**

**Thursday, 6th April. 2023. at 7 in the evening.**

>>>:**The Minister -- Welcomes and Greets Congregation:**

**Introduction *Tonight IS a service of Healing and Reconciliation.***

***We make no claim of miracles***

***Neither do we wish to nor attempt to mislead in any way.***

YOU can participate in this Service , - privately and or personally:

taking opportunities to commune with God in your own prayers

seeking healing of body, mind, and spirit for yourself --and others.

PLEASE join us (as you wish:) and a be a willing part this occasion

invoking God’s Healing powers in whatsoever way that He wills..

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**\*\*\*Call to Worship:** (from Psalm 116 (adapted © cbyates2023)

L : *What shall we say to the LORD  for all his gifts to each one of us?*

**All: I will call on the Lord’s name and drink from the cup of His salvation,** [**Alongside all my friends and neighbours,**](https://biblehub.com/psalms/116-14.htm)

**to-night**, **I will renew promises made before the LORD.**

**\*\*\*1-PRAISE:** **CH-4 454**. **A mighty fortress is our God**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | **A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing; Our Helper, He, amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;**  **His craft and power are great, And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.** |
| **2** | **Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God’s own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth His Name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.** |
| **3** | **That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still, His Kingdom is forever.** |

**>>>INTRODUCTION: the Minister.**

Services -- like this -- were Worship opportunities which fell into disrepute before and after the Reformation -- and perhaps that is to be regretted.

They always were a part of Christian worship, but fell into disrepute years ago In ‘Calvinistic churches’ in the 16th//17th .Century.

However, it IS Scriptural --indeed, it was part of Jesus’ Ministry to His people: Tonight, we follow precedent from an Ancient times in a Historic Church.

**\*\*\*OUR PRAYER of APPROACH and CONFESSION**

*L : Let us pray; Creator God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*without our knowing it, You are transforming us..*

**All : Each day, when we awake, without our choosing,**

**we are brought face to face with a new day.**

**We cannot change the past: it remains forever a part of us.**

**But with Your creative Spirit, ever -present in our lives,**

**we can ensure that the past never enslaves us.**

**Surrounded by colours, scents, and things that grow anew;**

**we marvel at the Creation You have given to us.**

*L* : *You have been the God of our forefathers; in You, they trusted!*

*They found You to be a refuge and a source of strength*.

**All : Like them, we turn to You when we need help;**

**like them, we too, are unworthy of Your guidance.**

**You give us so much, and we take it as a matter of course;**

**given so much, we begin to expect more.**

**The more You give, the more ungrateful we seem to be.**

**Forgive us our unloving hearts,**

**for nothing is ever hidden from You!**

*[--SILENCE--]*

L :  *The Gospel's Good News is there for those who seek it*

*there is forgiveness: unmerited, yet total, and unconditional !*

**All : We give thanks for this assurance.**

**We look for the warm flow of Your love towards us.**

**Help us to learn that we are Your children,**

**and You have looked after us from our very beginning.**

**It is through the death and suffering of Jesus, Your Son**

**that You have made it all possible for us to belong to You through our faith in Jesus Christ, as our Lord and only Saviour.**

*L : Father, …*

**help us to honour Your Name.** [ Lord’s Prayer ]

**Come and set up Your Kingdom.**

**Give us each day the food we need.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive everyone else**

**all who have done wrong to us.**

**Now keep us from being tempted otherwise. AMEN.**

**R-READING (1) : Gospel of MATTHEW, Ch. 26 ; vs. 6 -13**

**A Short, Focussed, Interpretation:**

**“ ..**That woman with the Ointment. …”

**\*\*\*2-PRAISE CH-2 277 [Tune : Angelus CH4 717] vs 1, 3 and 2**

**At even, when the Sun was set,**

**The sick, O Lord, around Thee lay :**

**O, in what diverse pains they met,**

**O, with what joy, they went away.**

**O saviour Christ, our woes dispel :**

**For some are sick, and some are sad,**

**And some have never loved Thee well**

**And some have lost the love they had.**

**Once more, ‘tis eventide, -- and we:**

**Oppressed with various ills, draw near ;**

**And if Thy form, we cannot see:**

**We know and feel that Thou art here**

**>>>CEREMONY of ANOINTING**

**No one will be offended if anyone wishes NOT to participate.**

* + - **simply STOP the ‘anointer’, and take the Bowl,**
      * **and administer to the person on *your right***
      * **OR sinply ‘pass-on’ to  *THAT* person.**

**We remain in our seated circle formed around the Table.**

***… … Then The Ceremony continues:-***

**OUR READING from the Letter of JAMES, Ch. 5**

**. [ edited to read in the plural.]**

***Reader)****. Let us read the following together*

*Is there anyone among you suffering?*

**Let them pray.**

*Is anyone cheerful?*

**Let them sing psalms.**

*Is anyone among you sick***?**

**Let them call for the elders of the church,**

**and let them pray over them,**

**anointing them with oil, in the name of the Lord.**

*And the prayer of faith will save the sick*;

**and the Lord will raise them up.**

*And if they has committed sins,*

**they will be forgiven.**

*Confess your trespasses to one another,*

**and pray for each other, that we might be healed.**

**For the effective and sincere prayer**

**of the righteous persons avails much.**

**>>>Our Blessing Prayer … … … … … by the Minister**

**Bless this sponge which has been soaked in soothing, perfumed Oil.**

*[ the prayer continues* **] … … … … …**

**… … …Amen.**

So, …Let us all be guided and reliant

upon our Lord’s words:

**“… Come all ye who are heavy laden,**

**and I will refresh you. …”**

[ -- The ***Anointing circle*** begins -- …]

L : AS each person anoints the next person, we can all use these words:

***”… Friend and Child of God: BE ANOINTED !*** …”

**[ ---** When ALL have participated ---- or otherwise ---…

we remain in the seated circle--- ]

**2-READING : Gospel of MATTHEW, Ch. 26 :verses from 17 -36.**

**Hear the INVITATION to the Communion.**

**The Thanksgiving Prayer**

**WE SING the Communion Hymn (tune O Waly Waly CH4 234)**

1. **An upper room did our Lord prepare  
   for those he loved until the end:  
   and his disciples still gather there,  
   to celebrate their Risen Friend.**
2. **A lasting gift Jesus gave his own,  
   to share his bread, his loving cup.  
   Whatever burdens may bow us down,  
   He by his Cross shall lift us up.**

**The Words of Institution have been read to us..**

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

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

**WE SING the Post-Communion Hymn:** (continued)

***A*nd after Supper he washed their feet,  
for service, too, is sacrament.  
In him our joy shall be made complete  
sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

**An upper room did our Lord prepare  
For those He loved until the end.  
And His disciples still gather there  
to celebrate their Risen Friend.**

**[ Words ex Y-T Chett Valley ].**

**\*\*\*Concluding Prayer**  ( by an Elder present.)

*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 tonight:**

**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-223** [Tallis] Glory to Thee, my God this night …

**1. Glory to thee, my God, this night,  
For all the blessings of the light:  
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath thine own almighty wings.**

**2. Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
The ill that I this day have done;  
That with the world, myself, and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**3. Teach me to live, that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed;  
Teach me to die, that so I may  
Rise glorious at the awful day.**

**4. O may my soul on Thee repose,  
And with sweet sleep mine eyelids close;  
Sleep that shall me more vigorous make  
To serve my God when I awake.**

**5. 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.**

**\*\*\*BLESSING and DISMISSAL**

*L : We bless each other by saying the Grace together*:

**ALL : The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,**

**The love of God the Father,**

**And the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all …**

*L : As our Lord left the Supper Table*

*For the Garden of Gethsemane,*

*Let us go quietly through the Gardens surrounding us*

*Go now in peace, … … but accompanied by the Lord.*

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

**Tomorrow, at 2-30pm *promp*t,**

**in St Andrew’s Church, Gisborne**

**A GOOD FRIDAY Memorial Service,**

**where we follow the Gospel according to Matthew**

**with special Choral Music chosen for the occasion**

**( the choirs of King’s and Jesus Colleges, Cambridge.)**

**commencing  *approximately at 2-15 pm.***

**On Sunday, at 9-00 am till 9-30 *EVERYBODY and ANYBODY***

***BRING A FRIEND !!!!***

**EVERYBODY is WELCOME**

**to a simple, *FREE, EASTER BREAKFAST***

**in the Hall *followed in Church* with the**

**Traditional Easter Service and *‘Flower-ing of the Cross’***

before sharing our Easter Communion.