

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“The Stone Church on the Hill”

Mission Statement

To worship God, follow Christ,
transforming the world in the
power of the Spirit

www.cashmerechurch.org.nz

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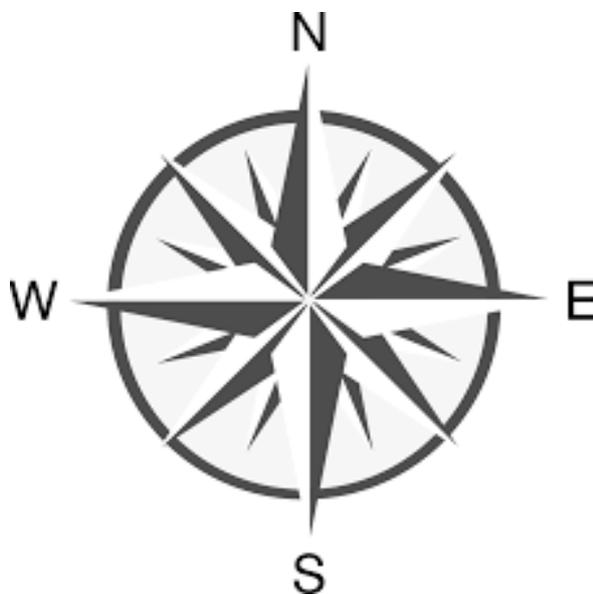
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Sunday 11th September 2022
Pentecost 14

Preacher: Geoff King

Theme: Lost & Found



A very warm welcome to you all, whether this is your first time or thousandth time in church. You are welcome whatever your age, gender, marital status, disability, poverty or wealth, race or sexuality. You are welcome whether you have a deep and mature faith in Christ; are uncertain and still seeking; or have no faith. If you are new to church, please do not hesitate to ask one of those on duty if you have any questions.

Children are welcome to sit anywhere in the church, but if they wish to be more active then there are a selection of toys and books at the very back, and also in the Family Room (door between the organ and piano).

There will be **Sunday School and children's activities** today, led by Janice, for those that wish to participate

You are invited to stay for morning tea after the service.

At the present time, we ask you to please continue to wear a mask during worship.

Order of Worship

*Congregational responses are in bold italics
Please stand as the Bible is processed in*

CALL TO WORSHIP /THE CANDLE

(adapted from Thom Shuman [2006], based on Psalm 14)

Kia ora tatou! ***Kia ora!***

Welcome to worship at Cashmere Presbyterian Church.

The foolish say 'There is no God; we are entirely alone in a random universe.'

We gather to celebrate the loving presence of God in our lives.

The foolish say 'live as you please, you are accountable to nothing and no-one.'

We gather, drawn by Christ's Spirit and seeking to follow Christ's way.

The foolish say: 'All that I have is my own; I owe nothing to anyone.'

We gather to praise the one who calls us to serve others in love.

We gather for worship around the simple symbol of a candle:

May its flame in our midst remind us of the light of God's love,

the peace of God's presence,

and the warmth of God's welcome in Christ offered freely to all.

HYMN: Everything in God *(Music: Lobe den Herren, WOV 28)*

God is the One in whom we all have life-giving purpose
Spirit encompassing all and yet present within us;
Breath of each birth,
Source of all beauty and worth,
Found in us all, yet mysterious.

Have faith in virtue, have hope in great beauty abounding;
Hear words of love, and then listen for laughter resounding;
When, with delight,
We turn the darkness to light,
God, we discern, is surrounding.

Home in our world amidst wonder of life with its splendour;
Movement and colour show nature's abundant agenda;
God is thus found
In air and sea, on the ground;
God is displayed by each gender.

Greet the creation, the magic of each constellation;
Stars without number and planets of unknown location
Whirling around,
Far beyond sight, sense and sound,
All share in God's incarnation.

God is the One in whom we live and move and have being;
Spirit within as we ponder our faith and believing;
Here and elsewhere,
Past, present, future to share,
God, the beginning and ending.

Words: George Stuart

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PRAYER OF APPROACH

God of our past, present and future,

There is much on our minds as we gather here today.

We're aware of many things competing for our attention;

We're conscious of many sources of stress and tension in our lives.

In the words of our call to worship

We've been challenged by the timeless wisdom of the psalmist;

As we pray and reflect together,

may we find new points of connection with your enduring love.

As we reflect on the week that's been, we acknowledge there have been times when our lives have been less than loving;

Times when we have thought or acted harshly towards others or ourselves.

As we reflect on the week that's been,

we acknowledge that we haven't always managed to love our God with all our hearts, souls and minds, and our neighbours as ourselves.

As we reflect on the week that's been, and look forward to the week that's yet to be,

May we receive, and be enabled to offer forgiveness;

As following Jesus' example and guided by his Spirit, we now join to pray

(Feel free to pray in your own language)

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom,

the power and the glory are yours.

Now and for ever.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND WELCOME

Grateful for God's limitless, reconciling love revealed in Jesus

We show our gratitude by sharing the warmth of God's welcome around.

READINGS: *(Reader: Sue Leadbetter)*

Jeremiah 4: 11 -28 (p. 734 OT)

Luke 15: 1-10 (p.100 NT)

STORY TIME

HYMN: Nothing is lost on the breath of God

Nothing is lost on the breath of God,
nothing is lost for ever;
God's breath is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world for ever.
No feather too light, no hair too fine,
no flower too brief in its glory;
no drop in the ocean, no dust in the air,
but is counted and told in God's story.

Nothing is lost to the eyes of God,
nothing is lost for ever;
God sees with love and that love will remain,
holding the world for ever.
No journey too far, no distance too great,
no valley of darkness too blinding;
no creature too humble, no child too small
for God to be seeking, and finding.

Nothing is lost to the heart of God,
nothing is lost for ever;
God's heart is love, and that love will remain,
holding the world for ever.
No impulse of love, no office of care,
no moment of life in its fulness;
no beginning too late, no ending too soon,
but is gathered and known in God's goodness

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SERMON AND MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

HYMN 478: Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Grateful for the many ways in which God in love finds us

***We offer ourselves and our gifts,
So that God's love in Christ may be made real in our world.***

HYMN: God who sets us on a journey

1. God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.
2. Exploration brings new insights
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.
3. End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.
4. When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us traveling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Words Joy Dine
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CALL TO SERVICE AND BLESSING

Called to be people of wisdom, compassion and courage

***We go, trusting that God's love in Christ is within and between us,
Leading us onward and waiting to welcome us home.***

Kia tau ki a tatou katoa te atawhai o to tatou Ariki,

o Ihu Karaiti, me te aroha o te Atua,

***Me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua tapu,
ake ake amine.***

***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the community of the Holy Spirit be with us all.***

(Sung Amen)

POSTLUDE

Please remain standing as the Bible is processed out.

*Thank you for sharing in worship this morning. Please come through to the
hall for morning tea.*



Points to ponder:

The lectionary readings for this Sunday present us with some challenging and confronting verses about wisdom and foolishness, judgement, being 'lost' and the lengths to which God will go so that the 'lost' are 'found.'

Traditionally ascribed to King David, **Psalm 14** laments a people who have become corrupt, preoccupied with their own importance, and have consequently been judged and punished by God. Whilst initially painting a very bleak picture of humanity, the psalmist holds out the hope that 'God is with the company of the righteous' and the refuge of the poor. The psalmist clearly equates 'wisdom' with 'seeking God' and 'foolishness' with rejecting or disregarding God, and the psalm ends on a positive note with the assurance that 'when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.'

- To what extent do you share the psalmist's understanding of foolishness and wisdom?
- What does it mean to claim that 'God is with the company of the righteous?'
- Who is the wisest person you know or have known, and what impact has knowing that person had on you?

The book of Jeremiah (often referred to as 'the weeping prophet') is believed to have evolved over a long period of time, with today's reading reflecting the prophet's despair at the occupation and destruction of the Kingdom of Judah by a succession of invaders culminating in the Babylonian exile from 587/586 BCE. Like today's psalm, **Jeremiah 4: 11-28** equates foolishness with forsaking God,

and interprets the disasters befalling Judah as signs of God's anger and righteous judgement against a whole nation. Also like the psalmist, the writer of our text from Jeremiah includes one small glimmer of hope amidst the verses filled with portents of doom and disaster: 'The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.'

- What, if any, relevance do readings like this have for people living in the 21st century?
- Do prophets have to be 'religious' figures, or could they be simply ordinary humans who feel compelled to warn other humans about the possible consequences of their actions - and if so, which prophetic voices are we listening to right now?

Today's Gospel reading offers two quite different and in their own ways also challenging images of God, and how God relates to human beings. Set within the wider context of Luke's Gospel, **Luke 15: 1-10** contains Jesus' response to the criticism he was facing from the religious leaders of his time for his willingness to share a meal with 'tax collectors and sinners.' The shepherd who goes in search of the missing sheep, the woman who turns her house upside down to find one missing coin, and in the next part of this chapter the well-known parable of the prodigal son, all point towards a God who actively seeks out those whom others have dismissed and given up as 'lost sinners', and who rejoices in welcoming them home.

- Have you ever been or felt lost, disoriented, overwhelmed, judged, unworthy?
- What does it mean to you to imagine God welcoming you home?



Annual General Meeting will be held next Sunday, 18th September., and will commence once we have had our morning tea. There will be no Healing Service next week.

Spirituality: A Conversation with celebrated New Zealand author Joy Cowley
Monday 19 September, 5:15 pm, Archway 3 Lecture Theatre and online:

otago.zoom.us/j/98552640349?pwd=OUV6SmU0ZEwyNGprNUU2YUlvZFlxZz09

English poet John Keats once referred to the earth as "the vale of soul-making". For Joy, soul-making is a way of talking about spirituality and describing life's journey. Soul-making is not about becoming more spiritual; it is about becoming more human.

Come and hear Joy talk more about this intriguing subject as she reflects on her own journey and experience.

Perhaps best known as an author of children’s literature, Joy is also one of this country’s most prolific authors of spiritual verse. Her books include *Aotearoa Psalms*, *Psalms Down Under*, *Psalms for the Road*, *Veil Over the Light*, and *Come and See*. In 2018, Joy was made a Member of the Order of New Zealand, and in 2020 she received an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Icon Award, which is limited to 20 living people. Whether you join us in person or online you are welcome to be part of this conversation, which is hosted by the Theology Programme of the University of Otago. For more information, please email theology@otago.ac.nz



Tuesday 13 September	9.00am	Craft Group in Kowhai Lounge
	11.00am	Forum in Rata Lounge
Thursday 15 September	10.00am	Pre-school Music
Sunday 18 September	10.00am	Morning Worship, followed by AGM

Church Rosters	This week: 11th September	Next week: 18th September
Door Duty	Cecile Pierce, Karen Glithero, Tony Waters	David & Jane Kim, Cath Dale
Morning Tea & Coffee	Peter & Tric Nelson	Clare & Anne Shave
Bible Reading	Sue Leadbetter	Ian Gray
Candle Lighting	Robin McKee	Jill Fenton
Food Trolley	Shona Lyford	Tric Nelson
Money Counting (Monday)	Rouie Swan	Kathleen Anderson

**Leading Worship over
the next few weeks:**

18 th September	Hamish Galloway
25 th September	Anne Shave
2 nd October	David Coster
9 th October	David Coster

