

Church Service by Distance 17 October 2021

St Andrews Presbyterian Church Manurewa

The following “service” is designed for those who normally attend St Andrews Presbyterian Church Manurewa but anyone else is welcome to join. Even though we are in our own homes rather than physically together for church, we know that others from St Andrews are also using this church service material at the same time – having the same prayers and message and songs etc. so really, we are still having church together.

Welcome

Welcome to the St Andrews distance service. There is a lot going on around us that we have no control of, but at the end of the day, our hope is not in government or health or comfort. Our hope is in the Lord, and in him we find strength by his Spirit.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we look to you in these troubling times. Help us to rely on your wisdom, strength and presence. We proclaim you as the great God above all else. You alone are our hope, for both this life, and the life everlasting.

Help us to take our minds off the circumstances around us, and to focus on worshipping you and hearing from your Word.

We commit to you this time of worship. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Song

Please check your volume level and click/tap on the link below for our opening song. Whether you are by yourself or with others, sing along, or just think about the words as they are sung so that you are thankful for what the Lord has done for you. Click/tap the below link. (And skip ads if they come up.)

Build Your Kingdom Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqZX08DDWiA&list=PL0uAzK0M5-2gv9cPeaDToHdUNnGNHrnKJ&index=2&t=0s>

Notices

Share Your Faith Seminar

We have the ‘Share Your Faith’ seminar in the church calendar for 6 November, 9am-1pm at St Andrews. This is an evangelism equipping seminar. We may or may not be at an alert level that allows us to have this seminar, so it is unknown if we will be able to go ahead or not. Please put the date in your diary in case we can meet.

Church by Distance

We will keep having church by distance while the alert levels don’t allow us to meet in

person. Please keep an eye on your emails from me.

AGM reports

If you are someone who writes a report for the Annual General Meeting, then now is the time to start. This is a report for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. Please email reports to Craig.

Family Life Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Family Life offer a seminar called “A Day Together” which is held in South Auckland on 13 November. See www.familylife.org.nz (and click Events then click A Day Together.)

Offering

During lockdown, we can continue to worship the Lord in our giving.

2Corinthians 9:7 says, “God loves a cheerful giver.” You can give to St Andrews through internet banking as a one-off payment or by AP as a regular payment. The church bank account number is 06-0359-0201482-00. If you want a tax receipt for your donation, please include your name or envelope number in the reference field. (If you don’t have an envelope number, please email Craig: craig@sapc.org.nz)

If you prefer not to give by internet banking, you can save up your offerings until we meet again in person.

Three Songs

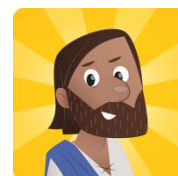
Again, whether you are by yourself or with others, sing along, or just think about the words as they are sung so that you are thankful for what the Lord has done for you. Click/tap the below link then click/tap the “PLAY ALL” button. (And skip ads if they come up.)

This link will play three songs, so don’t stop it as it nears the end of the first song.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGGAxbmqq4yrQV_-jL1aa6Psj-HhCEmXk

Kids’ Talk

If you have children in your house, I encourage parents read a bible story from your children’s bible or download the app called “Bible App for Kids” (See image to the right for what the icon looks like.) Have fun clicking/tapping on stories as well as animals/objects as a story is being told.



For Older Children

There is another free app called “The Big Little Bible” that is put out by the Bible Society. (See image to the right for what the icon looks like.) This app has bible stories with less images and more bible text.



Prayers for Others - Thanks Jan for today's prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to you today with thanksgiving in our hearts – we have some much more than the roof over heads, food on our table, shoes on our feet. You have provided us more than what we need and we are grateful for each and every blessing that you have bestowed upon us. Thank you for the week that has passed, for the time you have provided us to use our talents, for the opportunity to spend time with loved ones and be in each other's company; thank you for today that we can dedicate this time to praise and worship you and to receive your message through this online church.

Lord, we recognise that the current lockdown has been difficult for some families – some have experienced a loss of job and livelihood, loss of a sense of security, a lack of connection and a sense of isolation and increased anxiety over what the future brings. Lay your hands on our brothers and sisters and assure them of your plan for their future. Let your words “I will never leave you, nor forsake you” ring true in their lives; let them feel your presence and assure them that you are working in the background especially when it feels that their hope is waning. You are a mighty God, a powerful God – we know that you are bigger than whatever difficulties we are experiencing at this time.

Help us to extend our hand to those in need – whether in the form of material things like donations, sharing our time by getting in touch through a text or a phone call, even including them in our prayers. We know that no act of kindness is insignificant if it is done with a loving and sincere heart.

Give us patience Lord as we go through this lockdown. Bless our government leaders, our health experts and all those involved in making decisions for the future of our country. May your wisdom be upon each and every one of them as they chart the course of our country, particularly Auckland, in the face of the Covid virus. Whilst it is easy for us on the side lines to criticize our lawmakers, help us to appreciate the decisions they have made that have prevented deaths that we have seen in many countries overseas. We know that each and every New Zealander has been asked to make a sacrifice as we battle through this pandemic and find ourselves in lockdown. Help us make our sacrifice count by recognising that our freedoms are not without responsibilities. Help us to be considerate of others and not think only of ourselves; help us to recognise that whilst it feels like we are living in isolation at home with our families, our actions do affect the wider community and the country.

Bless all those in the frontline – our health professionals, those in essential services like our supermarket workers, and many others who do a fantastic job of looking after the rest of the country. May we extend kindness to them as they go about performing their duties.

Bless all those in the education sector, our teachers, teacher aides, school administrators and students as another school term starts tomorrow. We pray that our educators return to school reenergised and invigorated, ready and eager to share their knowledge and expertise to our students. For those in Auckland and are going through online learning for the next week or so, may they be able to engage with their students online, provide

stimulating activities that will encourage their students to participate and complete their school work. We know that our students are hungry for in-person interaction with their friends; we pray that they will be able to return to in-person schooling soon so they can engage and connect with their friends and their peers face to face.

Bless each and every one of our church family. We lift those who are going through difficulties at the moment - those who are sick and in need of your healing powers; those who are struggling with mental health issues and needing your peace and comfort; those who are missing loved ones and needing meaningful connections; those who are experiencing hopelessness and despair and needing your assurance. You know the prayers of our hearts Lord and ask that you hear our prayers. In our quiet moments, speak to us of your love and faithfulness. Help us to remember that our help comes from you – our loving and living God. Amen.

Message

This morning, we have an excellent 20 minute message by Andy Wooldridge Click/tap the below link. (And skip ads if they come up.)

Note: the link below will start and stop part way through a longer video. I have programmed the link below to start and stop at the beginning and end of the sermon.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/y_1cZS_HjDw?&start=1795&end=3046

Song

Click/tap the link below and sing along: Cornerstone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI&list=PLGGAxbbmq4ypWHOJgJxp-4P8RrQA2ixdd&index=3&t=0s>

Benediction

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and strengthen you and may he give you peace. Amen.