



VIRTUAL SERVICE, SUNDAY 24 October 2021

Welcome!

(Larry Robbins)

“On behalf of the members of the MBC Church Family I extend greetings and love to you all. May the time you spend in ‘virtual communion’ with us today be a time of blessing and may something that is shared – be it a prayer, a thought, a reading, music, or the sermon - be richly meaningful to each one of us.”

Call to Worship

(Stuart Gaze)

“What a privilege it is to worship our God—the God who has created the world we live in, whose love endures forever, who has sent his Son to be our Saviour and who blesses us continually.

Even in times of hardship we can praise God for his goodness to us and for his faithfulness.

Let’s worship God by reading Psalm 100.”

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

- 1 *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*
- 2 *Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*
- 3 *Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*
- 4 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.*
- 5 *For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Song: Blessed Be Your Name

(Jo Lima)

“I remember our first Sunday when we were able to worship as a congregation in China following the devastating earthquake of 2008. There was so much loss, and so much grief that people were carrying. This was the first song we sang together. It was a clear reminder that

worship is a choice. Even when things are not going the way we would choose – when life ‘is not as it should be’ – we choose to praise God’s name. ‘When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say: Blessed be the name of the Lord.’ So, no matter what is happening in your life today – my prayer is that this song will refocus you back to bringing praise to God.”

Blessed Be Your Name

Prayer

(Rosemary Cavander)

Lord our Heavenly Father, we come before you today with our prayers for ourselves and others. We thank You that You are with us in our homes, alone or with a few. But You, O Lord, are omnipresent and for this confidence we give You thanks. Forgive us our sins and going our own way this past week. So easily we can be discouraged and frustrated as we see adversity around us, but we know that the psalmist overcame adversity by praising Your Name in the midst of the adversities and suffering. Thank You for the Bible that is filled with promises and encouragement to turn to You at all times, because You know us intimately and You are in control of our lives. So we give You thanks that we can be encouraged again by taking part in this service through the prayers, testimonies, songs and the sermon. We thank You that about two thirds of the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6 is worship and praise, while only about one third is intercession and confession. The Lord’s Prayer begins and ends with praise. May this be in our service today.

We pray for world leaders that they be given wisdom to rule wisely and justly especially in countries where there is such poverty, homelessness, suffering under Covid pandemic, natural disasters, and Christians being persecuted for their faith. Again we pray for our own Parliament who are making decisions daily. May they heed the right advice from the health officials and the Police. We pray for Christian leaders to give wise and right encouragement to their communities.

We give thanks for answered prayer for those we know who are physically unwell, waiting for, or recovering from hospital stays, but thankful for medication that can give them a quality of life. Thank You for those who care for them – medical staff and family members. Your Word promises that underneath are the everlasting arms and we know that you are a Shield to those who take refuge in You. You are our Sustainer, our Provider and our Strength – for which we give thanks. We thank You for those in our church fellowship who have been reaching out to those who may be feeling very isolated and fearful during Covid restrictions. May their focus be on a God who is love and is beside them every moment of the day and night, and is holding them closely.

Although our schools have been closed for so long in Auckland, we give thanks for those education facilities that have been open and programmes like Launchpad have been continuing in other parts of New Zealand. We pray that Youth leaders in our churches will continue to connect with their young ones despite camps being closed and their programmes been thwarted.

As the Christmas and holiday period approaches in about seven weeks we are aware that there are folk in the fellowship who are longing to see their family, but restrictions may hold back seeing those who are overseas and travel between borders will be restricted, but we give thanks for electronic means to keep in touch.

Thank You Lord for Your great love, for Your grace that we don't deserve, and for the renewed hope, power and vision you give us daily.

Offering Prayer

Lord You own all we have financially. Today we bring back to you our tithes and offering. May the monies be directed to the places where needed most – in our communities and overseas, so that kingdom work will continue, which brings You O Lord much pleasure. We thank You for hearing our prayers through our precious Friend and Saviour Jesus Christ Amen

Song: Jesus, What a Beautiful Name

(Pushpa Payne)

“I first met David 27 years ago and after sharing a few words together, he said to me, ‘Do you believe in Jesus?’ I said, ‘Yes, I do’ but I don’t go to church because of an incident that happened to me when I was living in Fiji. After a few days David called me and said he was very interested in seeing me again. He invited me to his church and the very first song that we sang was this song, ‘Jesus, What a Beautiful Name.’ Singing the song, I sensed that something touched me, and I felt really secure with David. Since then, I have started going to church and the song has been a special one for me ever since.”

[Jesus, What a Beautiful Name](#)

Testimony

(Graham Judd)

“As a young teenager in the 60s I lived a pretty normal life; college, a local church youth group, Boys’ Brigade, music was important to me, and I started my printing apprenticeship at 16. When I was 17 I attended a Bible class Easter camp where I was challenged by the good news message of Christ’s death for me, but resisted God’s calling. Later that year at a Boys’ brigade camp, again I believe God was confronting me, to commit my life to follow Him. I did, I asked Christ’s forgiveness for the sin in me and invited Him into my life.

There were changes, it gave me new direction in a number of areas that I haven't forgotten. My sister said later she had seen a change in me after that. I thank God, it is a decision I have never regretted.

The Masterton Baptist Church taught me to "trust and obey," and I know the Lord had His hand on my life. A group of us formed a Gospel band, and shared our faith through music around the Wairarapa and Wellington areas. I met Rachel about this time, and we were married in 1972.

Through a number of events the Lord led us to take two years out to study at Bible College in preparation for missionary work, at that stage it was looking like Quito, Ecuador. It was at this point we met David and Glenis Maindonald, wondering if the Lord had HCJB in mind for us, there was a print shop there. We moved to Auckland and spent two years at BCNZ. While there we became involved in Open Air Campaigners, and later spent time helping at the OAC

outreach meetings in the city as part of a music team. I believe that although we didn't go to the mission field, we have been able to serve God in a support role for mission work at home.

I think the important things in my life these days are my wife and family, my music, my printing, and my walk with the Lord. At last Tuesday's Insight study group two words stuck with me especially. Strive for 'godliness,' rather than worldliness, and 'gentleness,' be a gentleman for God to those He brings my way. May I be faithful to Him who is faithful to me everyday."

Song: He Knows My Name

(Michael Whale)

"Lovely melody, great lyrics and so true!" ~ *Let this song bless you as well!*

[He Knows My Name](#)

Scripture Reading *John 7:1-13*

(Jim Milmine)

[Listen to the reading](#)

⁷After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him.² But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, ³Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. ⁴No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

⁶Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. ⁷The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. ⁸You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." ⁹After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

¹⁰However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. ¹¹Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?"

¹²Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." ¹³But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

Sermon

(Brian Lima)

[Read the Sermon](#)
[Watch the sermon](#)
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Song: Fight the Good Fight**(Murray Robertson)**

“In my early to mid-teenage years I seriously struggled with High School learning. In both school assemblies and at Church we sometimes sang this hymn, and it always gave me the impetus and will to carry on and to deal with my scholastic and religious inadequacies. ~ *May it be a blessing to you as well today!* “

[Fight the Good Fight](#)**Benediction****(Brian Lima)**

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

Benediction Song: The Blessing**(Eileen Barclay)**

“The Blessing – ‘The Lord Bless You and Keep you’ – is played by Chris Ferreira who used to play the piano when he was a Member at Milford. He and Peggy now attend Long Bay. He was recently knocked off his bicycle by a car and is recovering from deep tissue injuries but enjoys being able to play his piano and does clips for the Long Bay on line services.”

[The Blessing](#)