



## WELCOME

(Larry Robbins)

“Be Still for the Presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here”

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### **Psalm 95:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> Let us come before him with thanksgiving

and extol him with music and song.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is the great God,

the great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

<sup>7</sup> for he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.

## HYMN: Joyful Joyful We adore Thee

“Around 1908, Henry Jackson Van Dyke wrote his text to be “sung to the music of Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy’” The music is the adaptation of Beethoven’s famous final movement in his Ninth Symphony into a melody fit for joyous congregational singing.”

### [Joyful Joyful We adore Thee](#)

(please note – we are having occasional problems accessing the Viewpure site  
– we apologise if any unsuitable adverts appear on the YouTube version to which hymns today are linked)

## PRAYER

(Eileen Barclay)

*Sovereign Lord, Maker of heaven and earth, You are great and powerful, yet Your love for us is constant, greater than the love of a mother for her child – undeserved and all enveloping – and we thank You and praise Your holy name.*

*Almighty God we bow before You today conscious of the fact that you are omniscient and You know everything about us – our pride and self-centredness – our inmost thoughts, the things we do that we shouldn't and the things we don't do that we should. Forgive us Father. You are high and lifted up and yet the curtain was torn in two as a symbol that the way is open for us to come to you and we thank you for the privilege. Thank You that You can forgive, and that You hear our prayers and answer them.*

*Thank You for Your provision for us – the air we breathe, the sun and rain which promote the growth of our food, the daily necessities and the things that delight us – running rivers, birdsong, flowers and trees, the love of our family and friends. We are blessed with so much. Thank You. We thank You that we can return a small portion of what you have endowed us with and ask that you will accept the offerings we make and that ask that they will be used wisely for the furtherance of Your Kingdom. Help us to be faithful in the use of all that You have entrusted us with.*

*Lord we hear that statistically fewer people here in New Zealand are claiming to be Christians and we ask that we may let our lights shine, so that we will be able to show people the way. Help us to trust more, listen more and to be alert to the leading of Your Spirit so that our lives will reflect Your love. Fill us with Yourself so that there will be no room for the tempter. We pray that You will raise up leaders for our young people that they may find in You the direction for their lives.*

*We thank You again that we can bring our petitions to You. We are concerned about the dreadful events that are happening in our world – the floods, fires, eruptions, hurricanes and covid – we ask Lord that people may get the help they need but that most of all they may find You in the midst of all the trouble. We also think of those who have lost loved ones in accidents or by drowning and ask that they may know Your comfort.*

*We ask that You will be close to those of our Church Family who are struggling with ill health. We think particularly of Pat, the two Maurices, Robert and Barbara, Steve, Tom, Frank, Anita, Nelli, Ponny, Denys, Zoe and Amal. We thank You that Des has had the framework removed and ask that You will continue to restore him to health and strength. We pray for those who are in care – Melva, Lynne, Bill, Phyl, Don and Jim and ask that they may know Your presence with them and that their needs will be met. We also remember those who have been bereaved and ask that they may know Your comfort and strength.*

*O Lord we think of all those involved in leading the activities of the Church and ask that this holiday time will be a time of renewal and refreshing and that when things recommence, they will be effective. We ask too that you will bless our Pastor Brian and guide and enable him in his care of this part of Your flock. You have said we should pray for those in authority over us and we ask that they may accomplish Your purposes in this land.*

*Heavenly Father we bring all these things before You and again thank You that You hear our prayers. Help us to trust You to work all things together for good and to seek Your strength to live our lives in tune with Your Will. Thank You for providing the Salvation which allows a restored relationship with You, for forgiveness, joy and peace in believing. Guide us through this coming week that we may share Your love with others, for we ask these things in Jesus' name.*

*Amen"*

**HYMN: Now Thank we all our God (Nun Danket)**

**(Larry Robbins)**

"A German hymn with the words and music dating from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century and translated into English 200 years later. The words and music have stood the test of time."

**[Now Thank we all our God \(Nun Danket\)](#)**

## TESTIMONY

(Jo Lima)

"Brian asked me to share about something that God's been doing in my life recently. I've chosen one thing that I've been really struck by. Every year, early in January, I set out to articulate goals for the coming year. Some of these things have to do with my ministry and ties in with my role description. But one category in my planning has to do with identifying goals for personal growth.

We can so easily get comfortable and think we are doing pretty well really. Maybe we've seen real growth, or fruit of God's spirit at work in us, or we've had a lot of encouragement from others that makes us feel pretty confident. But because we're working through the book of James, I was reading through the book again – and I was struck by how direct James is. He's not subtle – he doesn't leave us guessing about the issues he's wanting to address. And once again – as is so often the case when we allow God to speak to us through his word – I felt so convicted of the need for action rather than knowledge. For faith, rather than logic. For obedience rather than "being right". So as I've been thinking about goals for this coming year in terms of my own growth and walk with Jesus, I'm keeping it simple. As James notes, there are lots of distractions – even really good distractions – like theological knowledge, ministry – but am I already acting on what I know? Am I being obedient to what God has already shown me?

So as I'm setting goals this year, I am committed to the basics of walking humbly with God. Reading Scripture, praying, and being obedient to God's prompting and leading in my life. I'm grateful for God's reminder – through the book of James – that our faith is extremely practical."

**HYMN: May the mind of Christ my Saviour**

**(Larry Robbins)**

[May the mind of Christ my Saviour](#)

**BIBLE READING James 1:19-27**

### ***Listening and Doing***

*1<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*

*2<sup>2</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.*

*2<sup>6</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

**SERMON**

**(Brian Lima)**

[Watch the Sermon](#)

[Read the Sermon](#)

**SONG: Your Will be Done**

**(Brian Lima)**

“This last song was chosen that we might have time to reflect on the wisdom we heard today from James.”

**Your Will be Done**

**BENEDICTION**

**(Brian Lima)**

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*Colossians 3:16–17*