



Virtual Service Sunday 23 January 2022

Welcome!

(Brian Lima)

"Welcome to our corporate worship of Jesus! We believe God is active in your life. His desire is to love you and provide you freedom from sin through the power of His Son, Jesus. Our believe is that God will use our time together to help you to see His presence in your life and His desire to raise you as His child."

Call to Worship [Psalm 1]

(Brian Lima)

"Let us remember the truth of God's word to us, which says,"

¹ *Blessed is the one*

*who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,*

² *but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.*

³ *That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.*

⁴ *Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.*

⁵ *Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*

⁶ *For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*

"May God set these words deep within our hearts by His Holy Spirit."

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

(Jo Lima)

[Holy, Holy, Holy](#)

Prayer

(Jim Milmine)

"Almighty God our Father in Heaven. You alone are great and high and holy and we gather to worship and praise Your Name.

"You, O Lord, are omniscient – knowing all things from the beginning to the end. You have been with us through the challenges of this last year. You have and are blessing us greatly with Your presence and Your peace in our hearts by Your Holy Spirit. We thank You again, as we gather together as Your people here in Milford, for the opportunity to praise You corporately yet again and to give You the praise long before we have received any answers to our prayers.

"We repent of those times O God, when we have not given You glory when we should. We have not immersed ourselves in Your Word as we could have, we repent for continually worrying about tomorrow, instead of trusting You fully today. Teach us, O God we pray, to live day by day with thankful hearts for all You have done for us, for giving us Your only Son, Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Saviour. In fullness of faith and trust, we hand over all our worries and troubles to You, our Lord and God.

"As Your word says in Habakkuk 3:17–19, "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor the fruit be on the vine, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food...yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength, he makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread in high places." And so it is Lord, that all that lies ahead of us in this very interesting, exciting and unknowable year – we leave in Your care by faith, a faith which activates trust – and so we will walk in Your atmosphere of blessing through this new year. We give You our worship, praise and thanks.

"We pray today for our Pastor and the Leadership Team here at Milford Baptist and we pray for Your guidance over the decisions that must be made and will affect our future and the future of Your church.

"We bring before You the members of our Fellowship who are not well, those who are awaiting or recovering from surgery and those who feel their recovery is so slow. We pray for those who have to make critical decisions and for us all as we seek Your direction and guidance for our daily lives.

"We pray for our country in the days ahead and the Government, with many difficult decisions to make which will affect us all. As Covid and its variants encircle the globe with its disastrous results, we pray that thousands will come to the realization that there is a God who desires that none should perish and that He loves them with an everlasting love and wants to be an intimate part of their lives. May the Church of Jesus Christ grow exponentially even in these dark and difficult days right around the world.

"We pray for the Nation of Israel and give thanks that increasing numbers of Israelis are becoming Messianic Jews – recognising who Yeshua, Jesus, really is. Son of God. King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We pray for the city of Jerusalem, that it may continue to be a light although surrounded by the huge, dark Islamic nations of the Middle East.

"May Your love, joy and peace go with us into the uncertain months of this new year. May Your Kingdom come. May Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

"Maranatha. So come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Offering Prayer:

"You O God have given us all things richly to enjoy. Accept these gifts we pray, which we offer to You with grateful hearts, praying that they may be used here and overseas to enrich and help extend Your Kingdom here on earth.

"In Jesus Name we pray. Amen."

Song : Cornerstone

(Jo Lima)

Cornerstone

Testimony

(Clive Rhodes)

"About 1972 I was asked to be a Board Member at St Margaret's Baptist church at Raumati Beach but after a year or two had passed I was feeling sort of dissatisfied. Something was missing, but I could not work out just what it was. As I looked at the church it seemed to be more and more like an arm of the Social Security Dept., and if that was all there was to it, it should have died out a thousand years ago. It had not, so there had to be more than what I could see and was experiencing. But what was this missing feature?

"After reading a number of books, it slowly seemed that Jesus Christ was the answer that I was looking for. Not just an historical figure, but one who was actively seeking me. I vividly remember reading about the Hounds of Heaven and that when they were let loose, they do not cease to chase until that person is finally cornered and a decision elicited regarding the claims of God on that person. My reaction was that they will not be catching me. I still knew that I had to sort this problem out as to how I was going to be able to stand before my heavenly Father and not be condemned, to leave His presence for ever, for I knew that I was not good enough.

"In the latter part of 1974 I applied for a position in NAC Head Office in Traffic Services. The interview seemed to go well enough but there was no early response as to who was successful. After a month in waiting, Christmas holidays were on hand. My departmental boss said he would ring the appropriate person to see what was going on. My reply to him was 'No, do not ring, I will trust the Lord for the answer'. My boss was quite taken aback but acceded to my request, which was, for me, a real first-time leap of faith. Before I left for our trip around East Cape, I left the address of the motel we were staying at East Cape.

"Upon arriving at the motel I was given a telegram which congratulated me on being successful in being promoted to the Head Office position. That was my first experience of what it means to lay it on the line with the Lord, to trust Him alone for a particular outcome.

"I moved into Head Office late January 1975. I remember on that first day finding my desk, meeting all the new faces, and generally getting familiar with this large, complex building. On the second day, I arrived at my desk, which on the previous day had nothing whatsoever on it, to find a small card sitting on some green blotting paper and on that card was written,

"'IT IS TIME TO SEEK THE LORD' from Hosea 10.12

"This card was set right in the middle of my blotter, there was nothing else on my desk. I picked up the card, and put it in my wallet. (As a matter of interest, I still have that card.). As the days and weeks went by in Head Office, I became aware of a growing desire for something, but I did not know just what that something was supposed to be. It was like being hungry, yet not knowing what to eat, or where to get fed. Would intellectual

type books about religion meet this need? Was it classical music? I tried all of these things to no avail, the hunger was still there, and indeed, it was getting even more acute.

“It was about now that a new event seemed to be growing within some churches, it had the odd name of the Charismatic Renewal. What was especially remarkable was that those who were involved in it, looked different. You could see it in their eyes. There was an openness, a freedom, a joy that was there.

“Another event that was to have major ramifications in my life, occurred about this time. When I had left my mother’s house in Harper Street for the last time, after her death, I had taken her King James Bible with me, and had had it sitting on our shelf in the lounge at Raumati Beach. I had looked at it several times, but quite honestly, I could not really make too much sense of it. Well, once again I was nudged to pick the Bible off the shelf, and opened it at random. It turned out to be open at Matthew Chapter 7, verses 21 to 23, which reads as follows;

Not everyone that saith unto me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works?” And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, Ye that work iniquity.

“For the first time I seemed to understand what the Bible was saying to me, and I was really shaken. I went to church, I believed in God, and yet here was Jesus saying to me “Get you from me, I do not know you.” To be frank, I was scared, and yet I became determined to find out more, to find out how I could really “know” Jesus, and He “know” me.

“As best I remember my hunger for that something, or was it now someone, became even more acute, and those words about the Hound of Heaven seemed to ring around my head. The more I read from books that I purchased from the Gospel Bookshop, the more it seemed that Jesus was wanting me to give Him my life. That to me was a hard ask, who knows what that sort of decision could lead to.

I remember just starting to walk down the stairs of a Bible book and record shop, when I heard a song start to play. It just stopped me in my tracks. The words were, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,

whose mind is stayed on Thee.” It was just such a beautiful tune, and the words just spoke to me at a very deep level. I just knew that a time was coming, when I would have to make a decision regarding this Jesus, who said He was the Son of God.

“During one week in the Spring of 1975, when I was walking home from the Paraparaumu station after work, in the dark of an evening, I knew the time had come to decide, but I put it off that night. The next night, as I came to the cross roads where Rimu Road met the road leading up from the Hot Bread Shop, I knew that I could not move past that spot without making a decision, one way or the other. I would either accept Jesus Christ as my Lord, or I would reject Him, by the act of walking on down Rimu road, out of the cross road area. After a moment or two of indecision, I knelt down on the road, confessed that I was indeed a sinner, and asked Jesus to come into my life, to be my Lord and Saviour. I arose from that spot and slowly walked on, into I guess, what was a new life. I cannot say that there were signs in the sky, but I knew that the decision that I had made was a valid one, and had been accepted. The one thing that confirmed that for me, was the fact that my mother’s Bible, which for so long had been literally a closed book to me, suddenly became so clear, and I had this profound desire to read and learn from it. It was better than any novel, or indeed any other book I had read. That had to be a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit within me, to lead, guide, and instruct me.”

[In Christ Alone](#)

Bible Reading James 2:1–13

(Jo Lima)

² My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Sermon

(Brian Lima)

[Read the Sermon](#)

[Watch the Sermon](#)

Hymn: Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone

(Jo Lima)

[Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone](#)

Benediction

(Brian Lima)

(May) Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love...may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17–19