



Virtual Service 20 March 2022

Welcome!

(Larry Robbins)

As the Omicron outbreak appears to be peaking, we are cautiously optimistic of being able to meet together again before Easter. In the meantime we hope and pray that this virtual service may be a blessing to you all.

Missions Spot - Scripture Union NZ (SUNZ)

(Brian Lima)

I just got back to my office (Monday) after meeting with Annette Osborne, the Children and Families consultant with Scripture Union. We had a cuppa, and I took her through our church and shared what I remembered of the history of Milford and its children's ministries. We talked about ways SUNZ and MBC might strengthen our partnership in the coming year. Please check out [her profile on the SUNZ website](#) and her ministry, [THRIVE](#). Please watch this video on [SUNZ ministries](#). Hopefully, we'll get to know each other more in the coming year.

Call to Worship *Isaiah 53:1-5*

(Brian Michell)

¹ *Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

² *He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.*

*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*

³ *He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.*

*Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

⁴ *Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

Prayer

Almighty God, our loving heavenly Father, we come to you again this morning with thankful hearts for all your great love and mercy to us, shown to us and showered on us in so many ways every day and throughout our lives.

Help us to see you as you truly are, in your majesty and holiness, your sovereign power and tender mercy, your compassion and care, and your constant grace and love for us and for all humanity. Guide us now as we focus on your character and actions and as we seek your face and your continuing work of grace for all people throughout the world, especially at this time of particular need in Ukraine and many other parts of the world.

We commit ourselves to you and seek your blessing and help as we share in this time of worship together.

Thank you for all your costly love, shown so clearly through Jesus our Saviour and Lord, Amen

The love of God for us is shown dramatically and explicitly in the life and sacrificial death of His Son Jesus to be our Saviour and Lord.

[Because He Lives](#)

[The love of God is greater far...](#)

Prayer

(Rosemary Cavander)

Lord, our heavenly Father, we come before Your throne of grace to worship You in spirit and in truth, alone, or with a few others. As we listen to recorded songs and hymns, may those praises fill us with joy and uplifted hearts, and anticipation for an understanding of the sermon prepared for us by Pastor Brian on John 18, the events leading up to the final sacrifice that Your dear Son Jesus gave to us on the Cross at Calvary.

Thank You for Your mercy, Your love, Your answers to our prayers for ourselves and others within our families and friends, our nation and all around the world where there are so many in desperate situations. We also pray for Your forgiveness for neglecting our responsibilities to worship You alone, Almighty God, and for treating others in an unworthy manner, as Christians. Forgive us that we spend so little time with You in our personal prayer times, and also for spending such a little time into discovering new truths and guidance from Your Word, the Bible. But You have given us a new start today, a new week ahead, and we can make more resolutions to You O Lord, our true Father in heaven, to walk more closely with You with listening ears, and softened hearts.

We thank You that You are such a forgiving Father Who wants the very best for Your children. Lord God, through Your Holy Spirit give us love to replace our indifferences, joy to counter sadness, peace to replace anxiety, patience to push aside our impulsiveness, kindness to care for others, goodness to see their needs, faithfulness to keep our promises, gentleness instead of harshness, and self-control to lift us beyond self-centredness (Galatians 5: 22,23).

Thank You for answered prayers for those in our fellowship who have needed prayer, and we continue to pray for those who still need a touch of Your love and Presence as they continue to seek Your help through difficult times.

We pray for those in authority – our Baptist Union as they encourage the pastors and churches around our blessed land. For those in government authorities – our Members of Parliament; those with medical health responsibilities and decisions they must make for the good of the whole country; for teachers in all education systems from preschools to those who are doing higher education, and the Carey Baptist College students and lecturers. Bless those whose schools are opened to Lauchpad programmes, bringing Christian principles to the children who have no other contact with the teachings of Jesus. We do pray too, for those who are planning Easter camps – despite uncertainty of whether they can accommodate the children during Omicron warnings.

Thank You for the guidance you have given our leadership team through very difficult circumstances but we thank You that they have endeavoured to keep us in touch with You Lord, and with each other. Bless our new Leaders on the team as they give themselves to meet the ongoing needs of our fellowship and the urge to reach the unreached in our communities.

Thank You Lord for all You give us daily. Please accept our offerings and tithes to expand Your Kingdom. Thank You for hearing our prayers through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen!

Hymns

(Brian Michell)

We acknowledge God's abundant love and costly grace as we give him our thanks and love.

[God, and God alone](#)

[God So Loved the World](#)

Bible Reading *John 18:1–14*

(Lois Michell)

[Listen to the Reading](#)

18 *When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.*

² *Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.*

⁴ *Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”*

⁵ *“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.*

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ *Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”*

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

⁸ *Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”^[a]*

¹⁰ *Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)*

¹¹ *Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”*

¹² *Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.*

Sermon “The Father Who Suffers”

(Brian Lima)

[Watch the Sermon](#)

[Read the Sermon](#)

Hymn

(Brian Michell)

[My Jesus, I love Thee](#)

Benediction

(Brian Lima)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14