



## P I C T O N Baptist Church

**“Come to me, all you who are weary and  
burdened, and I will give you rest.”**

**Matthew 11:28**



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Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

## TODAY'S SERVICE

\*Opening Song..... All together  
10,000 Reasons

Welcome & Notices..... Pene Sarjeant  
Tithes & Offerings ..... All together

\*Singing..... All together  
How Great Is Our God

Boldly I Approach Your Throne

Communion..... Led by Linda Price  
Message ..... Linda Price

### “A Bigger Picture”

(Select Scriptures)

\*Closing Song ..... All together  
Boldly I Approach Your Throne

Prayer & Blessing ..... Deo Vistar

\*Led by the Praise Team: Deo Vistar (leading), Ana Woolf (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Jude Stretton (singer), Te Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

✪ If you have any questions or need help, please ask one of the welcomers who will be happy to help you.

✪ If you would like prayer after the service today, ask the people around you or come to the front and someone will pray for you.

✪ A crèche is available down at the foyer. The service is relayed into the room so you are able to listen to it. Please ensure the room is left tidy.

✪ We invite you to stay for a cup of tea after the service.

## PASTORAL NOTES

**K**ia ora! Welcome to our worship this morning. If you are a first-time guest, I encourage you to fill out a blue visitor card and hand it to the welcomers or drop it in one of the offering bags.

One of the exciting things in being a parent is to be quizzed by your 3.5 year-old child with lots and lots of questions, particularly the difficult “whys”! Research shows that girls aged four are the most curious, asking an incredible 390 questions per day, averaging a question every 1 minute 56 seconds of their waking day. My daughter is turning 4 in a few months – Guan and I are now learning to turn to Google for answers, or make answers up on the spot!

We too have lots of questions (don't we?), and the commonest one we ask of God when we suffer and go through pain is “why”. Whether it's because of the death of a loved one, a serious illness, or something else, we naturally want to understand why things happen the way they do.

The problem of pain and suffering is a perennial one. Many people think suffering disproves God's existence. But wouldn't suffering become more senseless if there's no God who would hold evil to account and vindicate our just pain?

C. S. Lewis once said: “We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

This morning we're taking a break from our series on Ephesians. Linda Price is going to bring us a message entitled “A Bigger Picture.” Linda writes: “I will be talking about how we can sometimes judge ourselves and others when facing adversity or suffering and sometimes get it wrong. When we only have a part of the picture it is all too easy to speculate, make a judgement and get it wrong – the story of Job demonstrates this really well doesn't it? His friends consistently judge Job through his suffering and they consistently get it wrong. In the sermon today I would like to focus on a ‘bigger picture’ in relation to judging ourselves and others. A picture that looks at the teaching from the book of Jonah and a story from the book of Luke. What can we take from these teachings to help us to see a bigger picture and help us on our faith journey and in our lives, to draw closer to God?” Thank you, Linda, for bringing to us God's message today.

Next Sunday we'll return to Ephesians with a message on parents-children relationship, based on Eph 6:1–4. Blessings on us all!

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN THAILAND

From *The Barnabas Fund 2018*

[barnabasfund.org](http://barnabasfund.org)

**T**hailand is more than 90% Buddhist. Thai Christians, most of whom are ethnic Chinese, are generally free to practise their faith.

However, converts to Christianity from Buddhism face opposition and pressure to renounce their conversion; refusal to participate in Buddhist and spirit-worship aspects of family weddings, funerals and neighbourhood events can be perceived as showing disloyalty to their family and community.

Thailand's military government took power in a coup in 2014 and subsequently introduced a new constitution which upholds previous provisions allowing religious freedom for individuals. In 2016, the National Council for Peace and Order, the ruling military body which has sweeping powers, issued a decree guaranteeing protection for "all recognised religions" – these include Buddhists, Muslims, Brahmin-Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians – but calling for state agencies to monitor "right teaching" to ensure that religions do not "upset social harmony." The decree also specifically prohibits insulting Buddhism or Buddhist clergy, with those found guilty potentially facing a year in jail, although there are no reported cases of Christians being charged. The government stipulates a denomination-based quota for foreign missionaries, who are required to register.

There are around four to five thousand Pakistani Christians in Thailand who have fled Pakistan to avoid persecution. They are extremely badly treated. Immigration authorities carry out arbitrary mass arrests, even raiding worship services, and those detained are held in harsh and overcrowded conditions in detention centres with little concern for their welfare. In May 2017, one Pakistani Christian died in detention after he was put in a punishment room because he could not pay hospital bills for a heart condition.

Lift up in prayer Pakistani Christian asylum seekers in Thailand, who are not recognised as refugees by the government. Pray for a dramatic change of policy and



for the release of believers held in conditions sometimes worse than jail simply because they have tried to escape persecution. Pray that converts from Buddhism will draw strength and encouragement from the Holy Spirit in the face of family opposition.

## NOTICES

### Dinner Collective

2nd Sept (Sun), 6pm at church

### Volunteers Needed

- Webmaster (who will maintain our church website and Facebook page)
- Bulletin editor

Please speak with Deo if you're interested or if you'd like to know more about these roles.

### STAY CONNECTED THIS WEEK!

We have several home groups running during the week. Find out a group that may suit you and help you in your Christian walk. See schedule and contact details below.

Tuesday 10am	Home group (Bible study) at 90 Linden's Road	Contact Deo at 573 6315
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 5 Amelia Cres	Contact Stu at 573 7769
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 90 Lindens Road	Contact Pene at 573 7785
Wednesday 6pm	Youth group in the Church Hall	Contact Mary at 573 5499
Thursday 7pm	Home group at Steve & Sue Dawson's place (374 Waikawa Rd)	Contact Deo at 573 6315
Sunday 9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Children's Ministry Room	Contact Steve Lavers at 021 0235 5728
Sunday 10am	Church Service	Contact Deo at 573 6315
Sunday 10:30am	<i>Sunday Friends</i> (Children's Ministry)*	Contact Carol at 027 7735 263

\*Except on the last Sunday of each month

## Any Prayer Requests?

If you have any prayer request for the prayer chain, contact Judith Dodge at 573 9245.

## ROSTERS\*

### Hosting

2nd Sept..... P Sarjeant & G Macdonald  
 9th Sept..... L Stevenson & S Lavers (Communion)  
 16th Sept..... S & R Henderson  
 23rd Sept ..... B & M Pettigrew (Communion)  
 30th Sept..... A Woolf & L Price

### Music & Sound

2nd Sept: (Deo Vistar) (leading), Jude Stretton (singer), Te Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

9th Sept: Garry Stanley (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Lynette Stanley (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

16th Sept: Gwenda Galbraith (leading), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Jude Stretton (singer), Te Mara Riwaka (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

23rd Sept: Allison Le Heux (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Deo Vistar (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

30th Sept: Garry Stanley (leading), Ana Woolf (keyboard), Jude Stretton (singer), Lynette Stanley (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

\*If the date doesn't suit please arrange a swap with others on the roster.