



P I C T O N Baptist Church

**“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.
Put on the full armour of God so that you can
take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”
Ephesians 6:10–11 (NIV)**



293 Waikawa Road, Waikawa 7220
Phone: (03) 573 6315
Email: pictonbaptist@gmail.com
Website: www.pictonbaptist.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PictonBaptist/

Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

TODAY’S SERVICE

*Opening Song..... All together
The Joy of the Lord
Welcome & Notices.....Stu Henderson
Tithes & Offerings All together
*Singing..... All together
Amazing Grace
High Above
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Communion..... Led by Graham Galbraith
Message Deo Vistar
The Full Armour of God
Ephesians 6:10–12
*Closing Song All together
More Than Conquerors
Prayer & Blessing Deo Vistar

*Led by the Praise Team: Allison Le Heux (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Deo Vistar (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (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

Kia 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.

Pray for the families of Ian Stewart whose brother (who was battling with cancer) passed away last week in Scotland, and Dr Jan Shapcott whose sister Julie in Australia (who was also battling with cancer) passed away last Sunday.

Continue to pray for Bill Pettigrew’s recovery from his recent surgery. Also pray for Linda, Mara, and Bunna’s mum who is very ill at the moment.

We thank God for Allison Le Heux whom we consecrate today as our new Care Team leader. Thank you, Allison, for making yourself available for this role. If you want to know more about the Care Ministry and would like to help, please speak with Allison.

We carry on this morning with our sermon series on spiritual warfare, based on Ephesians 6:10–18. This is part of our main series on Ephesians. Last week we looked at 6:10–12, focusing on the spiritual warfare itself and our spiritual foes. Today we’re looking again at that passage, focusing on the armour of God – what it is and why it matters.

Below I’ve reproduced Bill Crowder’s article “Suit Up” from *Our Daily Bread* to supplement today’s reflection.

SUIT UP

By Bill Crowder

<https://odb.org/2011/03/19/suit-up/>

When I played American football as a kid, one thing that took some getting used to was all the equipment we had to wear. Running effectively in a helmet, shoulder pads, and a variety of other protective items can feel awkward and clumsy at first. But over time the protective gear becomes like a familiar friend that provides welcome protection against serious injury. When a football player suits up, he knows that his equipment is designed to protect him in battle against a dangerous opponent.

As followers of Christ, we also face a dangerous foe—a spiritual enemy who seeks our downfall and destruction. Fortunately, our Lord has provided us with protection, and He challenges us to suit up for spiritual battle.

In Ephesians 6:13, we read, “Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Paul then describes our armor—helmet, breastplate, shield, sword, belt, and shoes. These pieces of spiritual equipment are effective only if we put them on and use them—even if they might feel uncomfortable at first. Faithfulness in the Word (v.17), in prayer (v.18), and in witness (vv.19-20) are critical to making our armor feel like a part of us. So suit up! The battle is on!

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN UZBEKISTAN

From the *Barnabas Fund* 2018
barnabasfund.org

Uzbekistan has for the last two decades been probably the harshest in its treatment of Christians in Central Asia. Around 93% of the population of 31 million are Muslims. Increasing numbers of Christians are being punished simply for the “crime” of possessing religious literature, even though Uzbekistan is officially a secular state. Evangelism is banned.



Since 1998, increasingly strict religion laws have made it difficult for churches to function. Churches are required to register, but the stringent registration requirements are impossible for some to meet. Uzbekistan recognises the Russian Orthodox Church, but discriminates against other Christian denominations. Evangelical churches are growing, with many converts from Islam, who face ostracism and pressure from their Muslim relatives and harassment by the authorities.

Violent raids on Christian meetings and homes are common. Bibles and other Christian material, together with property of churches and believers like computers, smartphones and other equipment are confiscated and destroyed. Christians are arrested and detained, usually for 15 days, and fined. During first days of detention, they are beaten to try and get them to renounce Christ, making sure the injuries will have healed by the time they are released. Sometimes hunger and thirst are used against them too.

In addition to persecution, the churches face the problem of emigration by Christians in search of work; unemployment is high in Uzbekistan.

Christianity in Uzbekistan was almost entirely eradicated under the Turkic military leader Tamerlane (1336–1405), renowned for his hatred of Christians and still celebrated as a hero by the Uzbek people. Tamerlane made his capital in the Uzbek city of Samarkand and used the wealth from his conquests to construct grand mosques.

Praise the Lord that the Church in Uzbekistan is growing, despite the severe persecution. Lift up in prayer Christians, especially church leaders, who suffer physically and emotionally from the intimidation, beatings and imprisonment and pray that God will heal them. Ask that the government will change its attitude to believers and lift restrictions on religious freedom.

NOTICES

Picton Churches' Combined Service

30th Sept (Sun) 6pm at the Anglican Church. All welcome!

STAY CONNECTED THIS WEEK!

We have several home groups running during the week. Find out a group that may suit 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 on 573 6315
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 5 Amelia Cres	Contact Stu on 573 7769
Tuesday 7pm	Home group at 90 Lindens Road	Contact Pene on 573 7785
Wednesday 6pm	Youth group in the Church Hall	Contact Mary on 573 5499
Thursday 7pm	Home group at Steve & Sue Dawson's place (374 Waikawa Rd)	Contact Steve on 021 688 071
Sunday 9:30am	Prayer meeting in the Children's Ministry Room	Contact Steve Lavers on 021 0235 5728
Sunday 10am	Church Service	Contact Deo on 573 6315
Sunday 10:30am	<i>Sunday Friends</i> (Children's Ministry)*	Contact Carol on 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 A Woolf & L Price (Communion)
30th Sept..... B & M Pettigrew

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.

“GOD ISN'T ASKING YOU TO FIGHT THE DEVIL. HE IS ASKING YOU TO SIMPLY UPHOLD OR SUSTAIN THE VICTORY WON BY JESUS AT CALVARY AND ENFORCE HIS AUTHORITY OVER THE DEVIL. YOU'RE LIKE THE TRAFFIC WARDEN WHO RAISES HIS HAND AND THE VEHICLES STOP. THEY DON'T STOP BECAUSE HE CAN PHYSICALLY BRING THE VEHICLES TO A HALT, BUT BECAUSE HE IS REPRESENTING AND UPHOLDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE.” – PEDRO OKORO