



## P I C T O N Baptist Church

**“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that  
you must no longer live as the Gentiles do...”**

**Ephesians 4:17**



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Pastor: *Deo Vistar*, PhD

## TODAY'S SERVICE

\*Opening Song..... All together  
The Joy of the Lord  
Notices & Prayer ..... Pene  
Offering ..... All together  
\*Singing..... All together  
Glorify  
Be the Centre  
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
Communion..... Led by Graham Galbraith  
\*Singing..... All together  
Cornerstone  
Message ..... Deo  
“The Futility of the God-less  
Mind”  
Ephesians 4:17–21  
\*Closing Song ..... All together  
Be the Centre  
Prayer & Blessing ..... Deo

\*Led by the Praise Team: Deo Vistar (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Judith Stretton (singer), Graham Galbraith (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.
- ★ 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.

Kirsty Baldwin's grandmother passed away this week. Pray for the Lord's comfort and guidance upon the family.

We have some exciting and important events at church this June. The youth will have their sleep-over at church on the 8th (Friday) as part of the 40-hour famine campaign of World Vision to raise funds for the people of Sudan affected by conflict, drought and famine (for more info visit [www.famine.org.nz](http://www.famine.org.nz)). If you

wish to contribute any amount to this project, please speak with Mary Pettigrew.

We will have a special prayer meeting on the 15th (Friday) at 7pm here at church, focusing on the needs on our church and community. You are all invited to this.

Then on the 17th (Sunday) at 6pm the inaugural Dinner Collective will be held here at church. We all need to pray for this. Invitations are now available that we can give to neighbours and friends who might be interested to come.

The word of the Lord for us this morning comes from Ephesians 4:17–21. Paul's language and tone here will at first seem harsh and judgmental and will comess across as politically incorrect and unpalatable. But Paul is simply describing (from God's viewpoint) the pagan, unbelieving world for what it is – its worldview that rejects God and focuses on and exalts the human self and the accompanying lifestyle that's driven by human-centred goals, desires and feelings. We were all part of that unbelieving world before we met Christ. And now that we're Christ-followers, we are still in the world although not *of* it. God says to us: “My children, be careful how you live – not as the pagans do.” This echoes Romans 12:2, “Don't be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Obviously God isn't telling us to stop interacting with non-believers. He isn't telling us to hide ourselves inside our “holy ghettos” so to avoid worldly contamination. Our greatest model here is really the Lord Jesus Himself. He was a friend of sinners, yet He wasn't a sinner Himself. While the religious leaders of His day separated themselves from the “hopeless” members of society – the tax collectors, the immoral, the cheats – Jesus intentionally reached out to them.

The key to Jesus' great ministry was the balance of being distinct from the world and yet He was truly *present* in the world. He truly ministered to the world. But the story didn't stop there. He gave Himself to the world, thus He saved it.

Be reminded (and encouraged) today that our witness to Christ here in Picton greatly depends on the quality of our Christian life (we need to be distinct from the world) and our ongoing real presence in our community. Let us bloom where the Lord has planted us.

## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN PAKISTAN

From *The Barnabas Fund 2018*  
barnabasfund.org

Last year 17-year-old schoolboy Sharoon Masih was beaten to death by Muslim classmates, while teachers reportedly looked on. Pakistani Christians may number as many as 3.5 million, around 3% of the population, but are despised and discriminated against by most of the Muslim majority, even regarded as unclean. As a result, many Christians live in great poverty, doing low status jobs such as cleaning sewers. Violence, which was previously rare, has increased in recent years. But Christians often do not get justice, because police also discriminate against them.

Pakistan's "blasphemy laws" are used to settle personal grudges and entire communities have been violently targeted by zealous Muslims following such allegations. Christians are particularly vulnerable as stating their beliefs can be construed as "blasphemy" and lower courts tend to favour the testimony of Muslims, in accordance with sharia. The laws include a mandatory death penalty for defiling the name of Muhammad. Although no executions have yet been carried out, a number of Christians, including Aasia Bibi, are languishing on death row.

Islamist terror groups have specifically targeted churches and Christian gatherings with suicide bombings.

Every year, an estimated 700 Christian girls in Pakistan are kidnapped by Muslims, often raped, and forcibly converted and married to Muslims. Laws against forced conversion – designed particularly to protect Hindu and Christian girls – were unanimously passed by the Sindh parliament in November 2016, but at the time of writing the state governor has refused to sign them into law. All laws in Pakistan have to be compatible with sharia and Islam is the state religion.

Pray for the many desperately poor Christians, especially bonded brick kiln labourers, who are trapped in slave-like work conditions – ask that they will be set free. Call on the Lord for the repeal or amendment of the much-exploited "blasphemy laws" and the release of Aasia Bibi and other innocent Christians and others who have spent years in prison. Ask that efforts to

protect vulnerable Christian and Hindu girls from forced marriages will be successful.

## NOTICES

### Elders' Meeting

7th June (Thursday) at 1pm here at church

### This Week's Ministries at a Glance

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 (Bible study) at church	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

### Prayer Update from the Morris Family (SIM Malawi)

Our Pastors' Retreat was brought forward a week and started on Monday, 28th May until Friday 1st June.

The theme for the week is "The Good Shepherd" and we are aiming to encourage the pastors and their wives in their own relationship with their Good Shepherd, and to strengthen their ministries as good shepherds.

Pray with us that these pastors who can be very discouraged by their circumstances, will receive fresh hope and empowerment from the Holy Spirit.

### Any Prayer Requests?

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

## ROSTERS\*

### Hosting

3 June .....N & J Dodge (Communion)  
10 June .....A Woolf & L Price  
17 June .....L Young & N Davis (Communion)  
24 June .....B & M Pettigrew

### Children's Church Teaching

3 June .....Linda Price  
10 June .....Carol Tapp  
17 June .....Linda Price  
24 June .....Family Worship\*\*

\*\*There will be no children's church on the last Sunday of each month, as we would like to provide an opportunity for children to worship with their parents.

## Music & Sound

3 June: (Deo Vistar) (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Jude Stretton (singer), Graham Galbraith (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

10 June: (Deo Vistar) (leading), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Pare Raj (singer), Mihi Raj (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

17 June: Garry Stanley (leading), Jonathan Duffy (guitar), Bronwyn Duffy (keyboard), Georgine and Mihi Raj (singers), Lynette Stanley (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

24 June: Gwenda Galbraith (leading), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Judith Stretton (singer), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

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