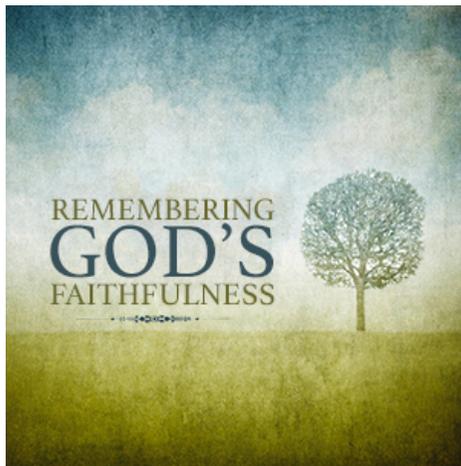




P I C T O N Baptist Church

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations ... Teach us to number
our days aright, that we may gain a heart of
wisdom.”

Psalm 90:1, 12 (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
More than Conquerors	
Welcome & Notices.....	Deo
Singing	All together
The Hope of All Hearts	
O Lord We Seek Your Face	
Communion.....	Bill P
Message	Deo
Psalm 90	
Closing Song.....	All together
Great is Thy Faithfulness	
Prayer & Benediction	Deo

- ✦ 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.

Today is our last corporate worship for 2018. By midnight tomorrow the year 2018 will give way to a brand new year. Some of you may be thinking: we're not growing any younger! True, but leaving that subject aside, I admit I always have mixed feelings this time of the year as I reflect back on the old year and consider what changes I need to make in the new one. There are so many things I am glad are behind me, but there is also the anticipation of so many possibilities of the future. There is a sense of truth to the idea that the

celebration of new year's eve is as much about the survival of the old year as it is the arrival of the new one.

Since this is the time of year that is natural for us to be reflective as we plan for the future, I want to challenge you to do that in a way that keeps the proper perspective. If 2018 has been a hard year – and it has been for many of us – it is easy to become melancholic or even depressed if you do not get your eyes off the problems and gain a more balanced perspective that also includes the good things that have happened and a hope for the future. It 2018 has been a good year – and it was for many people – it is easy to become nonchalant and then fail to properly plan for the future. What keeps us balanced is having a proper understanding of and relationship with our God. Psalm 90 can help us do just that, and we're going to reflect on it today.

To help enrich your end-of-the-year and new-year reflections, bear in mind two important words: remembrance and anticipation.

Remembrance:

1. What did God do in your life in the past year?
2. What blessings did last year hold?

Anticipation:

1. Pray and ask God for one word to characterise your life in the coming year. Write that out on a paper.
2. Who do you want to be at the end of this year?

Giving love on Christmas Day: I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who donated gift parcels for our church neighbours. I also want to thank those who helped with the distribution. Overall, we gave gifts to 34 families around our church. It was an amazing ministry of giving love on Christmas!

Yours in Christ's service, Deo

4 WAYS TO APPROACH THE NEW YEAR WITH JESUS

Daniel Darling

For followers of Jesus, New Year's has no unique significance. There's no central biblical narrative informing our celebrations. But this doesn't mean Christians shouldn't pause and reflect on the turning of the calendar. Moses asked of

the Lord, “Teach us to number our days, so we may get a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:12). Time—seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years—is a gift to us from a good God. To wisely follow him, then, is to redeem our time (Eph. 5:16).

New Year’s can also remind us of the new birth. In a sense, each day with Jesus is a chance to turn the page on an old way of life and embrace a new one. We are, after all, new creation people, and we serve a King who renews us daily by the Holy Spirit.

So whether or not we’re making concrete goals or more abstract ones, whether we’re writing down resolutions or foregoing them altogether, here are four important steps we can take, as we peer into 2017, to draw closer to Christ.

1. Remember

The wise man of Ecclesiastes said, “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Eccl. 12:1). In January, the year is young and the opportunities seem fresh. So many productivity gurus preach a gospel of self-empowerment, but as gospel people, we know the fragility of human life. We know every breath is a miracle, a gift given to us by our Creator.

In a cursed and tumultuous world, creation itself reminds of God’s great faithfulness. Every new season is a testimony, a signpost, to grace. So the proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is not “I made it through” or “Look what I achieved.” It is “Thank you, Lord.”

2. Repent

Our worship of God for his faithfulness and majesty ... should then lead us to repentance. His goodness breaks us in fresh ways as our sin is exposed by the light of his glory. But this isn’t a morbidly introspective, navel-gazing exercise. To repent is to rejoice. We claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 because we know our forgiveness has already been purchased at the cross. Beginning the new year with repentance is to draw closer to Jesus, to appropriate the fresh grace that is ours in him. This is why confession always brings relief and joy. It is the gateway to greater intimacy with God.

How can we begin new plans and journeys in 2019 without first allowing his light to penetrate the darkness of our hearts and to reveal areas in need of growth? How can we start hustling and working and dreaming

without first renewing our joy in the One who directs our steps?

3. Renew

New Year’s should also be a time of renewing old commitments, like marriage, family, and church. Before we begin grand plans to lose weight or develop a new skill—good creational goals—let’s begin by renewing the core commitments we already have.

Our most vital work is what we do within the walls of our homes—loving our spouses and raising our children in an atmosphere of godliness and grace. We live out the gospel best when we live it out in the daily rhythms of repentance and forgiveness with loved ones. We must reject the lie that says success requires abandoning family commitments.

We should also renew ourselves to the faithful body life of our local Bible-treasuring, gospel-preaching church. The local church is the locus of God’s mission in the world, where we gather in community to declare Christ’s kingship each week, and where we work out our salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12) with brothers and sisters in Christ.

4. Rest

New Year’s should be a time to rest. First, we rest in the reality of our identity in Christ. We may have failed to meet our heady goals in 2018. Jesus still loves us, despite our failures, unchecked boxes, and disappointment at the scale. The gospel tells us that he loves us in the midst of these.

Second, we should plan to physically rest. We don’t often do this on New Year’s. We plan to work and hustle. But do we schedule time to reflect and acknowledge our need for sleep and leisure? Rest isn’t a sign of laziness or weakness; it’s a sign of spiritual strength and confidence that when we close our eyes, our lives are in the grip of a sovereign God. To sleep is to say that we’re not God and that the world can go on without us.

So as we make our plans for 2019, let’s remember that even in our failures, we serve the One who remembers our frame and knows we are dust (Ps. 103:14). We make plans, but we hold them lightly. We entrust our future, not to Evernote or Google Calendar or a reading list, but to the King who holds the world in his hands.

NOTICES

Kim & Mary Robertson’s Visit to PBC

Please mark it on your calendar: Kim & Mary (missionaries we support in Thailand) will come and minister to us on the second weekend of February. On the 9th (Sat) at 6pm we will have a Church Family shared dinner here at the church and Kim and Mary will speak to us about their mission. Then on Sunday (the 10th) they will preach during our morning service.

Any Prayer Requests?

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

ROSTERS*

Hosting

6th Jan P Sarjeant & G Macdonald
13th Jan L Stevenson & S Lavers (Communion)
20th Jan D & A Le Heux
27th Jan B & M Pettigrew (Communion)

Music & Sound

6th Jan: Gwenda Galbraith (leading), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Allison Le Heux (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector), Bill Pettigrew (sound)

13th Jan: Guan (leading), Jude Stretton (singer), Bill Pettigrew (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

20th Jan: Allison Le Heux (leading), Graham Galbraith (keyboard), Kirsty Baldwin (singer), Te Mara Riwaka (projector), Andy Baldwin (sound)

27th Jan: Garry Stanley (leading), Ana Woolf (keyboard), Allison Le Heux (singer), Gyllian Macdonald (projector), Steve Lavers (sound)

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