



# **CARINGBAH**

# **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, 27 September 2020  
393 Port Hacking Rd Caringbah



## **Welcome**

Thanks for joining our service. We hope that you find us here at Caringbah Presbyterian Church welcoming and encouraging. We gather together to worship the LORD Jesus Christ who took on flesh, died on the cross, rose from the grave and ascended to heaven. His life, death, resurrection and ascension changes everything about us and it changes the world. Instead of being punished for our disobedience, God is now our Father, Jesus is our brother and we have one another as part of the family of God. We have an inheritance in heaven that is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit. We have eternal life.

We are called to love God, but also to show love to one another. We are called to go out to the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded in the Scriptures. We do this because he will return to judge the living and the dead. We hope that your time here at Caringbah will edify you and build you up as we worship together. We pray that you will be challenged, comforted and encouraged in your walk with the LORD and your service of other believers.

## **Keeping COVID Safe**

We believe that one way that we can love one another well is by making sure that we are all COVID safe. To that end, please stay at home if you have any symptoms. We encourage the use of face masks and hand sanitisers provided at the entrances. Please also ensure that you maintain social distancing of 1.5m. Whilst we are not able to sing during this time, we encourage you to reflect and respond in the service during the responsive readings.

## **Financial Information**

We are supported by the giving of our members. If you wish to give, the offering plate will be handed out during the service in the song of reflection at the end. However, we also welcome online giving. Our bank account details are as follows:-  
Name - Caringbah PC    BSB - 062-136    Account - 0090-0330

## **Communion**

We will be celebrating Communion today during the service. The elders will perform the appropriate hygiene practices including wearing gloves. Prepackaged communion cups whole-in-one) as well as the regular bread and juice will be made available.

## Call to Worship

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.

Psalm 145:10–13 (ESV)

## Song of Invitation: Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision  
O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me  
Save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought  
By day or by night  
Waking or sleeping  
Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom  
Be Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee  
And Thou with me Lord  
Thou my great Father  
I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling  
And I with Thee one

Riches I heed not  
Nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance  
Now and always  
Thou and Thou only  
Be first in my heart  
High King of heaven  
My treasure Thou art

High King of heaven  
When vict'ry is won  
May I reach heaven's joys  
O bright heaven's Sun  
Heart of my own heart  
Whatever befall  
Still be my vision  
O Ruler of all

Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne  
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## Opening Prayer

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who cares for us, we ask that you would be present in our midst this morning. Help us to put away earthly anxieties and unwanted distractions, and lift our hearts and minds heavenward, that we may be captured by your majestic glory and infinite splendour. We ask that you would grant rest to our weary hearts and through this service fuel us for faithful service of you in the week ahead.

## Responsive Reading

To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamo. A Song.

***All God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.***

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

***though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,***

though its waters roar and foam,

***though the mountains tremble at its swelling.***

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

***the holy habitation of the Most High.***

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

***God will help her when morning dawns.***

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

***he utters his voice, the earth melts.***

The LORD of hosts is with us;

***the God of Jacob is our fortress.***

Come, behold the works of the LORD,

***how he has brought desolations on the earth.***

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

***he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;***

he burns the chariots with fire.

***Be still, and know that I am God.***

I will be exalted among the nations,

***I will be exalted in the earth!"***

The LORD of hosts is with us;

***the God of Jacob is our fortress.***

## Confession of Sin

***All Our gracious Father, you sent your Son to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end and that we too might live a new life. Yet foolishly, we have chosen death over life. In our thoughts, words and deeds we have rebelled against you and your intentions for us. In so doing, we have broken our fellowship with you whose love is better than life and whom to know is life itself. We have hurt others sometimes unintentionally and sometimes deliberately, and have diminished their lives. In so doing, we have damaged ourselves who have been created to reflect your beauty. Father, forgive us our sin for Jesus' sake. And grant that your resurrection power might course through our entire being so that we walk in the ways of love and justice to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

## Receiving of Grace

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1 (ESV)

## Lord's Prayer

***All Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
Now and forever, Amen.***

## Westminster Shorter Catechism Q.104

Q. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

**A. *In the fourth petition, which is, “Give us this day our daily bread,” we pray, That of God’s free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.***

S. Proverbs 30:8, Psalm 90:17

### **Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>15</sup> What is crooked cannot be made straight,  
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

<sup>16</sup> I said in my heart, “I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.” <sup>17</sup> And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

<sup>18</sup> For in much wisdom is much vexation,  
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

<sup>2:1</sup> I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity. <sup>2</sup> I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” <sup>3</sup> I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. <sup>4</sup> I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. <sup>5</sup> I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. <sup>6</sup> I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. <sup>7</sup> I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup> I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

<sup>9</sup> So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. <sup>10</sup> And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. <sup>11</sup> Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

<sup>12</sup> So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. <sup>13</sup> Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. <sup>14</sup> The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. <sup>15</sup> Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. <sup>16</sup> For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! <sup>17</sup> So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

<sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, <sup>25</sup> for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? <sup>26</sup> For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

## **Sermon: Life as a Gift**

a) Life will be Disappointing

b) Life is a gift from God

c) Enjoying the Ultimate Gift

## Communion

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Let us hear the words of the institution of the Lord's Supper as they are delivered to us by the apostle Paul:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognising the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 (ESV)

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**All Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

The Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said: "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper he took the cup saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let's pray.

Thank you, O Lord our God, for the privilege of joining in the Lord's Supper and for its reminder to us of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Renew our faith and obedience that we may serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. Give to us the strength to fight the good fight of faith and to endure to the end. As we have received Christ, help us to live in Him. Make us wise so that we might live in a manner pleasing to you, enjoying life's pleasures with thankfulness, fulfilling its duties with faithfulness, and bearing its trials with patience. Instruct and guide us by your Spirit so that above all else we might obey and please you, and live with you in your holy and everlasting Kingdom. These things we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be thanksgiving, honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

## **Song of Reflection: Standing On The Promises**

Standing on the promises of Christ my King  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring  
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing  
Standing on the promises of God

### *Chorus*

Standing standing, Standing on the promises of God my Savior  
Standing standing, I'm standing on the promises of God

Standing on the promises that cannot fail  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail  
Standing on the promises of God.      *Chorus*

Russell Kelso Carter

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## **Benediction**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20–21 (ESV)

## **All Amen**

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord  
and Saviour Jesus Christ.

***Thanks be to God!***