



A special welcome to visitors to West, a place of shelter, faith and laughter. We are an all-age, all-stage community where everyone is included.

We especially love having kids involved in the service on Sundays. So please don't worry if anyone with you makes a little bit of noise – we're glad to have you with us!

Morning tea is part of our time together, so you're warmly invited to stick around for a fairtrade tea or coffee after the sitting-down part of the service.

Look out for people assembled in the area near the side exit door – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2020

30 AUG Revelation # 5 Chapter 12
Victory yet still pressured.
Power: Economy

6 SEPT Father's Day

13 SEPT Revelation # 6. Chapters 17-19
Wrath and Worship
Power: Loud Voices

20 SEPT Mosaic Youth & West
With Lance Pilbrow

27 SEPT Revelation # 7. Chapter 20
Hold onto Hope. Power: Competition with
and Commercialisation of Creation

4 OCT Revelation # 8. Chapter 21 + 22
All things new!
Power: Insiders over outsiders



Kia ora West,

How are you finding our Revelation series?

Whilst it is a really tricky part of the Bible to get our heads around – it certainly has a lot of helpful things to say to us today. The key message is an encouragement to remain faithful to Jesus and his ways – despite hard times and suffering - keep going. Don't give in or give up when it's hard. Stay faithful when it would be easier to slide. Choose Christ, not Caesar. Caesar represented the Empire, Rome, or in Revelation language "Babylon, the Beast, 666." Caesar and all he/they stood for was to be weighed up and compared to the loving, gracious, compassionate, truth filled ways of Jesus.

When compared, Caesar and the numerous ways of depicting him/them were consistently found wanting.

We too have these choices today.

When it comes to the power wielded by Caesar and his Rome, we've been thinking about how that applies to us in Aotearoa today. We've been identifying and bringing into the light some of the powers at work that pull us and society away from living faithfully for God.

So far we've considered patriarchy and sexism, with their desire to dominate and lessen the equal value and status God places on women. This is why we must be aware of our attitudes, our language, our jokes – to ensure they are siding with Christ.

We've considered the power manufacturing processes have in uplifting but all too often diminishing the image of Christ in the people producing the goods we consume. This is why we need to recognise our participation in these processes and take steps to reduce and eliminate slavery processes. Buy local. Buy fair trade. Learn about the sources of products.

We've considered the beauty of the Earth and acknowledged that we too often neglect to care for it. There is power held by those who deny there are problems to be reversed, and by those who profit from exploitation. In Romans Paul talks about creation being in pain from decay and groaning for God to put things right and set creation free – just as with people. We participate in God's work here and now.

We've considered systemic racism, with its power over people to hold them back and down over generations. If we can recognise our biases and our prejudices, we can start to move forward and lessen the grip racism has in our country and world. "Our only chance at dismantling racial injustice is being more curious about its origins than we are worried about our comfort" (Austin Channing Brown). God's power is greater than racism and so we can embrace our discomfort and be a disciple – a learner in the ways of Jesus Christ who is just and true.

Isn't God wise – enabling these ancient words to be able to speak to us today by the Spirit! Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to our church.

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

We have a portfolio of people and communities we support around New Plymouth and the world. The basics:

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia/ NZ)

The workshop is beginning to open up one or two days per week. This is being led entirely by local staff and we are incredibly proud of their courage, commitment and ownership of the business. Pray for wisdom and good communication as we

empower our local leaders to rise up to this challenge.

Carley (S Asia): I have managed to get a flight booked to go home. My official leaving date is 29th August. Please pray for me as I prepare to leave, that I will be able to connect with those I need to, in order to have a proper end to my journey. Pray for

the flights to go, and for a negative Covid test to allow me to fly.

Charlie & Jo (S Asia): The city and country we are living in has increasing numbers of Covid 19 cases. At the time of writing we are facing more lock downs and we continue to be concerned for our communities. Please pray for us, for health and continuing to be able to engage well with the community. Please also remember Freeset as the economic impact continues to affect us.

Closer to home:

We love and partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with HPP Reading, KickStart Breakfast Club, Pastoral Care,

Mother's Day Brunch, Morning Tea for staff at the start of each term, Citizenship Award, and other areas individuals volunteer in. There are many ways you can serve our school community if you're interested.

Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy. Andrew spends Wednesday mornings at the school. He is a part of regular pastoral care team meetings which seek to collaboratively support children and families, and he spends time listening to and supporting children. Andrew is also working on developing a partnership between West, School and Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring.

west: growing

The **Ladies Tuesday Group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home. See events section for dates.

The **Movie Group** will meet weekly at Grant & Megan's home on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series. On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz night at Westside Grill at 6.30pm.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates. Anyone looking for a fortnightly home group is welcome to check us out. If anyone new would like to join us you're welcome to come along.

Music & Play group is for preschool children and their parents or caregiver. Friday mornings at 10am during the school term. We begin with fun and interactive songs with lots of musical instruments, parachutes and ribbons. Followed by a yummy

morning tea and play time. The group is an open welcoming space for all who would like to be a part of it. For more information feel free to check out the Music and Play Group Facebook page or phone Naomi on 021 203 3653.

Family Faith Night: Families, Food, Fun, Faith. 5 – 6.30pm on occasional Sunday nights. Details to be advised. Bring some kai to share. All children and their families are welcome.

Mosaic Youth for those of high school age will continue approximately fortnightly. With the Covid uncertainties the current scheduled meetings are subject to change, but see James M to be put onto the kids' and/or parents' WhatsApp group to stay in the loop with the latest.

The Music Group This month's practice will be on Thursday 3rd and 17th September at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

west: in our community

Parenting: If you or somebody you know would like to participate in an outstanding parenting course, we have funds available to support people to do this. We are no longer running parenting courses, but can help connect people into them. Please contact Andrew, Naomi, Alison or Chris D, or Val W.

After all I've eaten during lockdown, I'm happy to report that my jandals still fit.

west: people

Our love, support and prayers go out to **Erin and the Roche family** on the death of her mother Verna. The celebration service was held on Tuesday and was an inspiring tribute to a life of nurture, love, sport and people.

West has a private Facebook page for connecting with each other. "West Baptist New Plymouth Connection."

Welcome home **Carley!** You may like to be praying for Carley.

Please continue to **pray for and support** those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays – **Margaret O, Eric P, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R, Jocelyn D.**

west: events

Friday Night Movies. 6pm at **Lynda & Andy's.** We're working our way through Star Wars. Come along and hang out!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR:

1,15,29 th	Ladies Tuesday Group at Heather H's home, 1pm	4,11,18,25 th	Friday night movies at Lynda & Andy's home, 6pm
3, 17 th	Music Practice	8,15,22,29 th	Movie Group at Grant & Megan's
4,11,18,25 th	Music & Play, at West, 10am	10, 24 th	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's

west: pitching in

Lawnmowing. We have a church lawn mower and would love your occasional help on a roster with the church property's lawns. Contact Alison.

Prayer: If you have a prayer request, please contact Andrew who would be delighted to pray with you and/or put your request on the prayer chain.

We have an **e-mail prayer chain** where a dozen people are committed to praying for any request, as they are able. All West people are encouraged to be a part of this. If you'd like to join the prayer chain as a pray-er, please contact Andrew.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,500 per month in offerings; in July our offerings were \$9,984.00.

If you'd like to set up an **automatic payment** or use envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church please see our treasurer, Brent G. (751 0010). The government will rebate a full third of what you give.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	5 SEP	12 SEP	19 SEP	26 SEP	3 OCT
	Sue J Steve J	Alison D Wayne L Andy L	Brian M Kathy M	Khon A Nang A Syd B	Lynda L Andy L

Whoever said one person can't change the world never ate an undercooked bat.