



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

OCTOBER 2020

27 SEPT Revelation # 7. Chapter 20
Hold onto Hope. Power: Apathy

4 OCT Carey Baptist College Sunday!
John Tucker, Principal, is speaking

11 OCT Prayer and Self Denial Introduction
Meryl is speaking

18 OCT Prayer & Self Denial # 1
Carley from Tranzsend is speaking

25 OCT Base Hospital Chaplaincy & West
Joe Gray is speaking

1 NOV Prayer & Self Denial # 2
Andrew is speaking



Kia ora West, Our General Election is coming up.

What sorts of things are most important to God?

What is going to be most beneficial for our country? (Not just for ourselves)

We've been working our way through the New Testament book of Revelation. In it we've seen time and time again the clash of power. There's the assumed power of Babylon/Rome/Caesar/ Empire. But there's the ultimate, lasting and true power of God that is found in Jesus' sacrifice and in the faithfulness of people to Jesus and his ways. Revelation is a call to question and often reject the power of Empire – power that upholds systems and structures that push down and hold down some people, whilst enabling others to thrive – at the

expense of those held down.

We see this in the growing inequality between rich and poor

We see this in the unaffordability of property for some whilst others are making a small fortune

We see this in gender inequality

We see this in manufacturing processes where some gain by paying next to nothing whilst some employees can barely survive

We see this in policies that make struggling employees more vulnerable

We see this in the systemic racism

We see this in dominant voices that control, ignore, belittle.

We mustn't side with Empire. "Come out of it!" (As Revelation urges us to do) We must side with the ways of Jesus – wherever they may be found.

Luke 4:16-19

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Why does so much organised Christian religion seem to side with Empire – upholding the powerful – squashing the vulnerable?

Conservatism is the 'conserving of what is' – and far too often it's conserving the position of the Empire. This is especially so with conservative politics.

Jesus consistently brought a radical challenge to the Empire.

Why is it that the church both here in Aotearoa and magnified in the U.S., has been most vocal regarding matters such as; abortion, gay rights, prayer in schools - things barely given a passing comment in scripture.

Jesus' early words in Luke 4 name his purpose, they reveal God's heart, they describe what partnering with God's Kingdom looks like.

Jesus' gospel starts with a message to those who are struggling due to economic exploitation, to the broken hearted, the imprisoned, to those needing ease of access to health care & support, to those who feel on the outer. He's speaking to those who are negatively impacted by the Empire.

And so, if we're wanting to think about Jesus' version of the gospel (good news!) and voting, let's be thinking about things like: - Living wage - Criminal justice reform and rehabilitation - Investing in education for all - Protecting women & children and helping them thrive - Racial reconciliation - Compassion for all people - People before economy

As we head to our election on October 17, let's embrace empathy and think of what's best for Aotearoa. What could happen if we voted as if:

- Our skin wasn't white
- Our partner is an immigrant
- Our child is transgender
- Our brother is gay
- We can't afford to buy a house
- We can't afford to rent a house
- We can't afford to give our kids a healthy lunch
- We have a job paying \$18.90 per hour – the minimum wage
- God really did want us to look after creation?

With grace and peace

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)

Give thanks for a strong, capable local team, who are now running the workshop 3 days a week. Pray that our local staff of 22 will know the Spirit's presence, wisdom and peace, as they work together to run their freedom business. Pray for India as COVID19 continues to be widespread.

Carley (S Asia): Welcome home Carley! Carley has completed her managed isolation and is touring the country connecting with her supporters. She'll be with us on her very last day of employment with Tranzsend – October 18. Let's be praying for Carley in this time of connecting and transitioning.

Charlie & Jo (S Asia): As Covid comes into its 7th month of having an effect on our country, we have come to realise that to get through this virus is a long game, and one that requires good rhythms of rest and work. Pray for our community and the husbands who have lost jobs and motivation. Pray for our business. We are grateful for the opportunity to sell masks, but count the cost of the loss of other business due to conferences being cancelled within that. Ask for His face to be shown as we step out,

and for us to have courage to love fearlessly and generously, as He showed 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 **Movie Group** will meet weekly at various homes on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss

movies on the themes of our sermon series. Phone Megan C for details of venues. 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 fortnightly on Fridays during term 4. See James M for details (or better yet, ask to be put onto one of the Mosaic Youth WhatsApp groups for kids or parents.)

The Music Group This month's practice will be on Thursday 15th and 29th October 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.

west: people

Congratulations Lou on her new role as the chaplain at WITT !

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

Welcome Laura D, Wayne & Gill B, Kenneth S. It's great to have you a part of us!

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

Over 60's Group

Due to an unexpected change in family circumstances I am unable to host our next Get together (a shared luncheon.) Is there someone who is willing to do this? Please contact Carolyn.

OCTOBER CALENDAR:

8,22 nd	Chocolate Fish Group, at McK's	16,23,30 th	Music & Play, at West, 10am
13,20,27 th	Movie Group at venues TBA		
15, 29 th	Music Practice		

west: pitching in

Lawnmowing. We have a church lawn mower and would love your occasional help on the roster for mowing the 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 August our offerings were \$10,041.

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	3 OCT	10 OCT	17 OCT	24 OCT	31 OCT
	Lynda L	Judy W	Val W	Meryl A	James M
	Andy L	Brian W	Allan W	Alison D	Carol M
		Brian W		Stuart W	

*Interested in going to
Heaven?
Get flight instructions
from the Bible.*