

Embrace a Pace of Wonder



It's the most wonderful time of the year, but sometimes the to-do list feels endless, the preparation seems daunting, and the holidays can have a way of reminding us of our deepest disappointments.

But what if we chose to pause the busyness of the season and start discovering a deeper joy? What if we slowed down to embrace a pace of wonder?

We can. You can. But to experience the most wonderful time of the year, we've got to start making it the most worshipful time of the year. Because wonder and worship go hand in hand.

It may not be easy. Maybe it's been a difficult year. Maybe you're experiencing the loss of a loved one, the loss of a dream, or the loss of what you thought your life would look like. Maybe you're in a season of waiting. But your past experiences don't have to dictate your future expectations.

When we worship, we're expressing awe at someone or something. At this time of year, we all have reason to worship - and it's not tied to our current circumstances. We have reason to worship because of the gift we have received through Jesus.

Just look at what happens when some wise men hear about the birth of Jesus:

And when they [the wise men] saw the star, they were so ecstatic that they shouted and celebrated with unrestrained joy. When they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, they were overcome. Falling to the ground at his feet they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure boxes full of gifts and presented him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:10-11 TPT

For hundreds of years, people had been waiting. Waiting on God to fulfill His promise to send our Saviour. And Christmas is one of the best reminders that God keeps His promises. He sent us Jesus as the ultimate gift to show that God wants to be with us.

The wise men celebrated with unrestrained joy. They were overcome. They fell to their feet and did the only thing you can do when faced with that much wonder—worshiped.

This Christmas, instead of focusing on what you need to do, worship God for what He has done for you. Instead of focusing on what you lack, focus on God's love.

Craig Groeschel, Pastor of Life.Church

Leith Valley Church welcomes and includes Children and Youth

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CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER

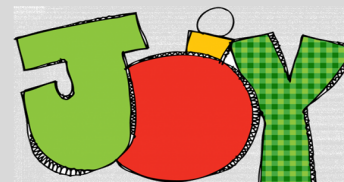
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NEXT week's Team

Service Leader	Richard D
Preacher	Richard D
Worship	Rachel B
Prayers for Others	Bill L
Bible Reading	George B
Door & Offering	Bronwyn B/Liz D
Morning Tea	Debbie G Bronwyn D
Sound	Fiona C
Data	Rachel E
Duty Elder	-
Prayer Ministry	-
Welcome	Fran D
Offering	Janine K
Set up	N/A
Playground	-

LEITH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday 15 December 2019



ADVENT 3



Kidztime Break Up Today!



Welcome to worship with us this morning! If you are visiting today please help yourself to a WELCOME PACK from the back table. We'd love you to leave us a contact form so we can get back in touch. Hand this to the Service Leader, or leave on the welcome table.

SERVICE LEADER:

MIRANDA F
PREACHER:
KIDZTIME
WORSHIP:
HANNAH T-H

**DUTY
ELDER:**

RICHARD
DAWSON



NEXT SUNDAY

22 DEC
SERVICE AT
LEITH VALLEY
CHURCH
267 MALVERN ST

Today's Team

Door Greeting:	Children & Youth	Welcome:	Mal & Helen C
Prayers for Others:	Kidztime or N/A	Set up Team:	Jono D, Graeme H
Bible Readings:	Kidztime or N/A	Offering Counter:	Esther D
Children's Talk:	Advent	Morning tea:	Mal & Helen C
Sound:	Ged F		Judith F
Data Projection:	Bronwyn B	Playground:	Caldwell
Prayer Ministry:	-	Lock-up:	Richard D

Seeking God's Kingdom Growing Great Community

Notices

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday 24 December 7pm

@ Leith Valley Church
267 Malvern St
Community Glowstick
Christmas Family Friendly
All welcome!



Christmas Eve Service Helpers -

Please can we meet after church to sort out a time for a practice?
Thank you - Fran D



Important Dates over next 3 months

22 Dec: Sunday Services move from the School back to Leith for the summer (also Communion)

24 Dec: Christmas Eve Service

5 Jan: No service at Leith. Hospital Bed pushing *Helpers needed*

19 Jan: Picnic Lunch after service

2 Feb: Return to School for Sunday services

Service at the Hospital

Chapel: 5 January

On Sunday 5 January, it is our turn to provide volunteers who can help get patients who wish to attend the service down to the Chapel. As our numbers are very low at that time of year, there will be no service at Leith Valley Church, instead we invite everyone to this service. At least 8-10 people need to be there at 9.45am to help with patients. The service begins at 10.30am

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Final Day for the year on December 17, 10.30am at Leith Valley Church 267 Malvern St

Bible reading App available

Bible 2020
Visit www.bible2020.nz for more information or see notice board.
Download now, readings begin 1 January



Notices

TIME TO SAY THANKS

This is the time of year to say thank you to all the people who have helped in the Kidztime and Youth teams, lead by Miranda, Fran, Rachel, Olivia and the Senior Youth. Children and Youth are a huge part of our ministry here at Leith and a lot of work goes into planning and delivering programmes, recruiting volunteers, mentoring children and youth, setting up, packing up and praying!



However we would also like to thank all those whose names have appeared on the rosters throughout the year: those who have lead worship leaders (that's you Hannah!) lead worship, played instruments and sung, given children's talks, lead us in prayer for others, read Bible readings, operated the data projector, handed out the newsletters at the door, provided and served morning tea, offered prayer following the service, welcomed newcomers, counted the offering, supervised in the playground and ... locked up. Sound and set up are two of the biggest 'physical jobs' needing to be done for Sundays and a number of people have been extremely faithful in offering their time for these duties so huge thanks to them for their dedicated service.

And to the Parish Council and Elders - thank you for all your time and commitment to help lead the parish of Leith Valley Presbyterian Church!



Department of Theology, University of Otago

Semester 1, 2020 January Intensive:

Theology and Mental Health Paper

More Information: PAST307 / MINS405

Intensive Dates: 27-31 January

This paper will be taught by Prof John Swinton (University of Aberdeen). This paper will cover topics such as depression and anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, psychosis, and dementia. This paper promises to be a valuable experience wrestling with significant pastoral concerns that many counsellors, pastors, chaplains and health professionals face every day.

For information on Theology papers being offered next year please visit: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/>

