

Weekly Liturgy

February 6, 2022

Church at Your Place

GATEWAY
CHURCH

Summer Series '22

strengthening ourselves in the Lord.

KEY SCRIPTURE:
Ephesians 1:4-8

reflection

This week, we conclude our Summer Series by looking at the biblical concept of adoption. Adoption is an area most of us have some idea about even if we have not been directly involved in the process of adoption ourselves.

There is nothing trivial about adoption - it gets right to the heart of God's big plan from before the beginning of time. In fact, adoption is a doctrine unique to Christianity. For example, there is no such concept in Islam.

We can call God our 'Father'. To have been adopted indicates that we were, at one time, not in God's family, but we are now through the life and work of Christ

discussion

1. Do you think the idea of adoption is widely understood and talked about within Christian circles. If not, why not? Can we often overlook the idea when we come to read the Scriptures?
2. When the Bible describes our relationship with God as being between 'father/child' or that we have been adopted into His family, these are concepts unique to Christianity. What do these phrases mean to you? Do they invoke a sense of warmth or does it challenge you?
3. How do you think your relationship with your earthly parents (keep it generic) has shaped your relationship with your Heavenly Father?
4. Did the message make you think differently about what adoption means for us as followers of Christ and what God has done for us? How does it inform your walk as a disciple of Jesus?

response

1. Last week, we encouraged you to seek out practical ways to renew your mind and ask the Holy Spirit to help you do this. How did this go?
2. Take some time to thank God for being our Father and for that relationship we have with Him. What does it mean for you, for us, to be called sons and daughter of God?

prayer

1. UKRAINE:

- We're going to pray again this week for Ukraine. The situation there is incredibly fragile and continues to affect political/social/diplomatic relations around the world. Pray that God will redeem the situation in the Ukraine and draw people to Himself. May He give Ukraine peace and the chance to develop as a nation that values truth, justice and freedom, all rooted in the goodness of God.
- Pray that Ukrainians ultimate hope would not be in governments, armies, elections or diplomacy but in Jesus.
- Pray for the Church, that it would rise up, united and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the hands and feet of Jesus for their communities and nation. Pray for their protection and safety against fear and persecution.

2. WAITANGI DAY:

- Waitangi Day commemorates a significant time in our Nation's history. We're praying for a heart posture of unity, understanding and love across our land between Māori and Pākehā and that from this posture we'd see the Spirit of God pour out and move powerfully in our nation.

3. BACK TO SCHOOL

- As our children go back to school for 2022, let's pray for their protection and flourishing, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Pray this year would be one full of learning, good friendships, laughter and adventure.

We also pray for our teachers. Let's thank God for them, for their commitment to teaching our next generation which goes seen and unseen! Pray for wisdom, creativity, inspiration, protection, strength and renewed passion for the work ahead!

praise reports

As a community, our desire is to be resilient disciples of Jesus who celebrate and continually give thanks to God for what He is doing in our midst.

Sharing what God is doing, retelling stories of His faithfulness builds faith and encourages us in our journeys - and this is what we want to do!

So if you or anyone in your group has a praise report or testimony, we would love to hear about it and share those stories (with permission) with our wider community!

Email Megan at megan@gatewaychurch.org.nz and she'll be in touch.

pastoral care

We have a Pastoral Team at Gateway who walk alongside people in our community who may be going through tough times, need support or prayer.

Please phone 021 318 663 to let us know if anyone in your group (with their permission) needs our assistance.

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**Thanks for hosting church
at your place this Sunday!
It's our prayer that this
time together is a blessing
to all gathered.**

**Have any feedback/ideas
to make this even better?**

Let us know!
office@gatewaychurch.org.nz