

# MODERATOR'S MESSAGE HAMAS-ISRAEL WAR



## *Blessed are the peacemakers*

Today it is 18 days since the Hamas and Israel war began with a terror attack by Hamas on Israel. I have watched this unfold in the news with horror and prayed that there would be a ceasefire, prayed that these appalling crimes against God and humanity would end. Instead, the suffering and terrible loss of life continues, with unconscionable civilian casualties, and humanitarian aid not able to reach those who need it most. As is so often the case in war, children, women and the vulnerable pay a terrible price. It is a humanitarian catastrophe.

I know that some of you have strong views on this war, and on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Today, both Israelis and Palestinians are living in fear, are injured, are mourning the loss of families and friends. I invite you to join me in prayer for:

- A ceasefire.
- Those killed, injured, and all who care for them.
- The release of hostages taken by Hamas.
- Safe humanitarian access into Gaza so that much needed aid can be provided.
- Those trapped and those who have had to leave their homes.
- Those risking their safety to help.
- For peace-keepers and peace-makers.

Christian World Service has launched a Gaza Palestine Emergency Appeal to assist people who have been affected by the current conflict, particularly in Gaza. They write that “thousands of people have been killed, injured and displaced. Nearly two hundred people are being held as hostages. Hospitals, schools and homes have been damaged or destroyed. The need for a ceasefire and humanitarian relief is overwhelming.”

If you would like to support the CWS appeal see information [here](#), and there are links to more appeals below.

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9)**

*Right Rev Rose Luxford*

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand  
[moderator@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:moderator@presbyterian.org.nz)

More appeals for those affected by this war:

[Unicef](#)  
[Oxfam](#)  
[Red Cross](#)



# Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church    October, 2023



## Peace Sunday Community Service

*'Remembering Parihaka'*  
*Seeking Peace in a Troubled World*

**Flagstaff Community Church**  
Sunday 12th November on Centennial Ave, 9.30 am

You are invited to a community service including stories, waiata, Kapa Haka: Tikanga Whakāri, tamariki activities and kai.

*He hōnore, he korōria, Maungārongo ki te whenua*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace*

*and good will toward people. (Te Paipera Tapu)*



A koha will be taken which will go towards  
Dunedin Night Shelter

### Season of Peace: 'Seeking Peace in a Troubled World'

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Dawn Service at Rongo Stone 7 am.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. 'Remembering Parihaka' with Wakari Tikanga Kapa Haka

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Praying for our Troubled World.

**School Creek Restoration Project:** We are currently restoring our awa next to the church. This little creek is showing signs of life and is breathing again and some native birds are showing up. There are a few folks who meet for a couple of hours on a Monday and pot away at planting, trapping pests, removing, weeding, etc. Occasionally we have a project in which everyone is invited including our local school. If you want to join us ring Neil Brown 027 435 4672.



The Church in the South is seeking an executive officer to help it nourish vibrant communities of faith.

The appointee will work with the Council, the governing body, to communicate and advance the Church's strategic direction. They will lead a small team of employees and interact with diverse communities, congregations and groups across the region.

We encourage inquiries from people with the energy and skills to help transition us into the next stage of our life together, beginning in 2024.



A position description and background information are available from Kerry Enright at [kerryenright@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kerryenright@xtra.co.nz)

**Applications close on Monday 20 November 2023.**

**Flagstaff Prayer Time:** Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Church foyer. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.

**Mission Membership:** There are a number of people who have moved from the original place where they were baptised and made a confession of faith, and who now make Flagstaff Community Church the place they live out their faith. To arrange an appointment to explore fully the implications of becoming a committed member of our congregation please contact Brendon McRae, 027 356 9200.



**Interested in studying Theology?** The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers a wide range of papers and qualifications, all available via distance learning. Some papers are taught via videoconferences, others include teaching days in Wellington. Others involve week-long intensives. For further information go to [www.otago.ac.nz/theology](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology) or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639.

## CAMPUS AND DISTANCE LEARNING



# Theology@Otago 2024

Explore faith, yourself and the world.

### Pre-Christmas Summer School

13 November-16 December 2023

CHTH 224/324 Special Topic: Theology and the Environment

### Summer School

8 January-17 February 2024

PAST 323/MINS 415\* Christian Ministry in Te Ao Māori  
(with intensive, 15-19 January 2024,  
venue to be advised)

### Semester 1 2024

CHTH237/337\* Moana Pasifika Theology  
(intensive 11-15 February 2024, Dunedin)

BIBS 112 Interpreting the Old Testament  
BIBS 121 Interpreting the New Testament  
BIBS 131 Introductory New Testament Greek Language 1  
BIBS 317/413 God, Suffering and Justice in the Hebrew Bible  
CHTH 102 The History of Christianity  
CHTH 218/318 The Person and Work of Christ  
CHTH 233/333 Public Theology: Faith in the Public Square  
CHTH 320/420 Public Theology and Social Justice  
HEBR 131 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 1  
PAST 216/316\* Current Perspectives on Pastoral Care  
PAST 324/MINS 424\* The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader

### Semester 2 2024

CHTH 236/336\* Māori Religion and Theology  
(with intensive 1-5 July, Ohope Marae,  
Bay of Plenty)

BIBS 132 Introductory New Testament Greek II  
BIBS 211/311 God, Land and Exile in the Hebrew  
Prophets

BIBS 226/326 Jesus in the New Testament  
CHTH 111 Doing Theology  
CHTH 131 God and Ethics in the Modern World  
CHTH 416 The Theology of Bonhoeffer  
HEBR 132 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 2  
PAST 225/325\* Special Topic [A Topic in Pacific Theology]  
PAST 318/MINS 410\* Pastoral Care in Dying, Grief and Loss

### Pre-Christmas Summer School

11 November-15 December 2024

CHTH 217/317 Special Topic: Theology and Science

### Full year

BIBS 213/313/411 Hebrew OT Exegesis  
BIBS 223/323/421 Greek NT Exegesis

All papers are taught on campus and by distance learning,  
except where indicated (\*distance only)

### Contact

Theology Programme  
4th Floor, Arts Building  
Tel 03 479 8639 | Email [theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:theology@otago.ac.nz) | [otago.ac.nz/theology](http://otago.ac.nz/theology)  
Or contact AskOtago: [ask.otago.ac.nz](mailto:ask.otago.ac.nz) | Tel 0800 80 80 98



**Pastoral Visit:** If you would like a pastoral visit from someone from within the pastoral team or the minister, please ring elder Sarah Barton 021 385905.

**Life Groups:** Life Groups @Flagstaff are a vital part of who we are as a community of faith as we seek to grow in Jesus. Not only do we explore the messages God has for us from the Bible but we also have the opportunity to connect with others and experience a place where no-one stands alone. If you would like to join one of our weekly groups please contact Sarah Barton 021 385905.

**Community Facing Groups:** Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming which may centre on an activity, a hobby, a talent, a life stage, a project or service. Groups include, Steady as you Go, Hire a Helper, Community Garden, Women's Coffee Group @ Coffee Culture (Held 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm), Green Fingers, Walking Groups and more! If you would like to join a group, start a group or find out more information then please contact Brendon on 0273569200.

**Discipleship Groups:** which focus on study and prayer. Wednesday 1.30 p.m. Contact Sarah 021385905.

**Tithing/Giving:** There are many ways we can support the activity of God in our church, community and world. Two ways of making your church offerings.

1. Use internet banking to make direct credits or automatic payments to the Flagstaff Community Church. Westpac bank # 03-0903-0192517-03. Please include your name for reference or if you use Envelopes use your Envelope reference/number.
2. Join the envelope system by contacting Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052 320. You will receive a set of personally numbered envelopes. This can be placed in the kete/basket at the foyer entrance anytime during Sunday Worship.

If you give to special appeals or missions, you can claim on these donations by identifying the appeal by naming it when you make the internet payment or by putting your number or name and address on an envelope.

### **Contacts:**

**Prayer Chain:** Sue Yule 476 7655, or Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Pastoral Care:** Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Envelope System:** Alison Jenkin 021 1052320

**Technical Equipment:** Andrew Sims [andrewcarolynsim@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcarolynsim@gmail.com);

**Church Newsletter:** Jenny Neill 467 5813 [dandjneill@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dandjneill@xtra.co.nz)



## Kaumātua - Elders

**Presbytery Elder:** Sarah Barton  
[parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

Vanessa Gordon: [ness.gordon@gmail.com](mailto:ness.gordon@gmail.com);  
Alastair & Sue Yule: [yules@xtra.co.nz](mailto:yules@xtra.co.nz);  
Tim Mephram: [tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz](mailto:tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz);  
Gary Dent: [gary.dent7@gmail.com](mailto:gary.dent7@gmail.com);  
Andrew Sims: [andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com);

**Minister:** Rev. Brendon McRae  
Phone: 027 356 9200  
[brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz)

Flagstaff Community Church Services 9:30am (Communion 3rd Sunday of each month)

**Parish contact details:** PO Box 10074,  
Halfway Bush, 9042, Dunedin  
[office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

**Website:** [www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz](http://www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz);  
[www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff](https://www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff);

**Office** 9 Centennial Avenue, Wakari  
Dunedin, 9010

