

## REFLECTIONS FROM JOSH JONES

TODAY we begin our Sermon series for January in which we savour and explore The Psalms. These ancient Hebrew poems were most often sung as hymns and their real richness and beauty is that they express the full range of our human condition. The Psalms give us a worldview, a way of communing with God and knowing him more intimately. We receive a map by which we can understand the contours and direction of our lives. If I had to capture their essence in two words I would say 'honest humanity'. We can only realise the fullness of a mature authentic spirituality if we are able to express the authentic fullness of our human condition. I would like to think that this ethos of encouraging a honest authentic humanity, is a core heartbeat for who we are and what we value as a St George's community in Christ. A few months back we shared these words with our Staff and Vestry team, and they are words worth consistently returning too, as a reminder of what it looks like to reflect the spirit of the Psalms.

If this is not a place where tears are understood,  
where do I go to cry?

If this is not a place where my spirits can take wing,  
where do I go to fly?

If this is not a place where my questions can be asked,  
where do I go to seek?

If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard,  
where do I go to speak?

If this is not a place you'll accept me as I am,  
where do I go to be me?

### OUR FOUR CORE VALUES

'He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata. *It is the people, the people, the people.*'

**A Place of Grace** – A community where everyone can come and be safe, loved and accepted. Everyone is valued and empowered to be the person God intended us to be.

**Diversity is a Gift** – A life-affirming, life-enhancing community, celebrating our God given differences and growing deeper in our relationship and formation in Jesus Christ.

**Creativity and Justice** – Encouraging and releasing our creative gifts and advocating the intrinsic value and dignity of all people, the land and all living creatures through the ethos of Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship).

**Daring Greatly** – Having the courage, trust and vision, to follow the Spirit's leading. To see beyond what we already see, to become more than we already are. To be an outward-focused church, creating pathways into the community and people we are privileged to serve.

**Josh and the St. George's Leadership Team.**

### St. George's Marriage Preparation Course

The next St. George's Marriage Preparation Course starts

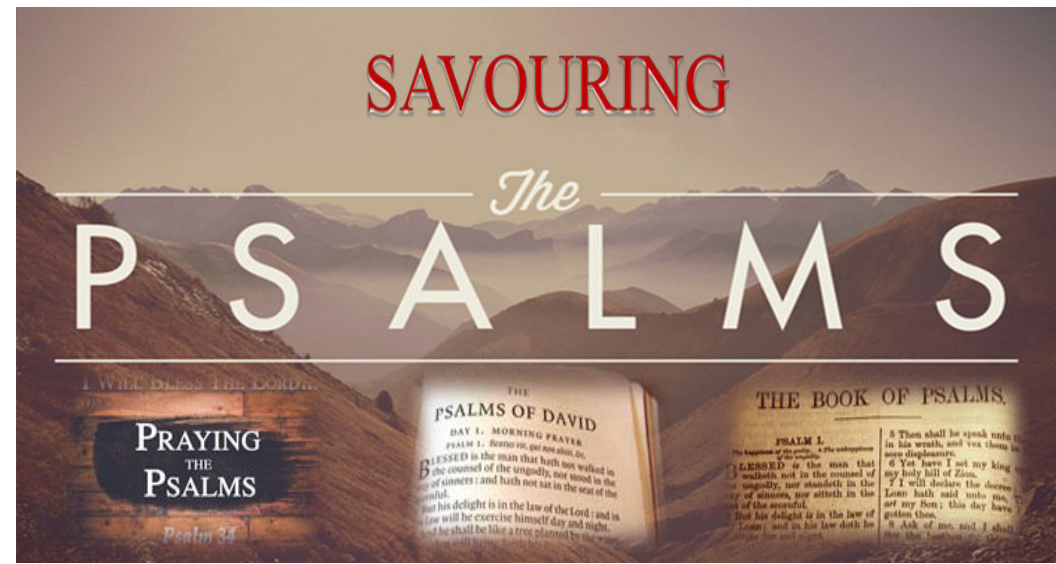
**Wednesday, 27th January 2021**

The course covers 5 weeks and will be held by Duncan & Julie Macdonald. If you wish to take part in this excellent course or know of a couple who are getting married in the near future who would like to attend, please contact Julie via email, [duju@xtra.co.nz](mailto:duju@xtra.co.nz) for further details or to enrol.

**Plan Your  
Marriage**  
*not just your wedding*

### GIVING

- EFTPOS: Terminal is available at the back of the church.
- INTERNET BANKING: Westpac Bank account # 03-0104-0109844-01
- DONATION BOX: At the back of the church.



**“Empowering people to be Christ’s followers in the world.”**

**SUNDAY SERVICES, 3 January**

**8.30am - 10.15am**

**THEME:** “*Why should we care?*”

**SPEAKER:** Rev. Stan Thorburn

**READINGS:** Psalm 8

**VERSE OF THE DAY:** Psalm 8:1 “*LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.*”

**SUNDAY SERVICES, 10 January**

**8.30am - 10.15am**

**Speaker:** Rev. Josh Jones - “*Savouring the Psalms*”

**WEDNESDAY SERVICES** resume on 3rd February 2021

**VISITORS ... It's great to have you worshipping with us today.**

**Do pick up a 'Welcome Pack' on the table at the back of church.**

**We hope you feel at home here and we look forward to getting to know you.**