#### **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

**WELCOME TO ST ANDREW’S CHURCH, GISBORNE**

***Matawhero Church – Church Lane***

***St Andrew’s Church and Community Centre:***

***176 Cobden Street, Gisborne***

***27 February 2022 Transfiguration Epiphany 8***

# **LUGHNASADH**

The Autumn quarter of Lughnasadh brings the gift of maturity and is a time of physical harvest and spiritual garnering. It sees the greatest change in weather from broiling heat to dark and chilly nights. It is the time for celebrating the harvest and sees the busy preparations for winter. In the human growth cycle, Lughnasadh corresponds to the period of mature adulthood when a certain steadiness and responsibility have been established. It is a good time to celebrate the lives of all who have helped stabilize and uphold the noble values of life, of all who have exercised good judgment and steered the doubtful into the harbour of certainty, of all holy ones whose guardianship has saved us from life-disabling mistakes. *For the weeks between 1 February and 30 April.*

A close-up of some food

Description automatically generated with low confidence

# **LAMMAS**

Lammas is the name that the medieval Christians gave to the Lughnasadh holiday falling on 1 February, and means “loaf-mass”. This was the day on which loaves of bread were baked from the first grain harvest and laid on the church altars as offerings. It was a day representative of “first fruits” and early harvest.

*We gather together as the people of God*

*Kia Ora, Talofa, Bula Vinaka, Shalom, Annyeong-haseyo, Bonjour, Guten Tag, Goede Morgen*

**Celebration Service**

***Greetings with news and notices***

***Introduction Catherine***

**CALL TO WORSHIP *Chrissie***

Leader: Sacred Seasons of the Earth as you sweep over the land

And through our hearts, you are the Face of God

***Sacred Seasons Challenge us to let go of the fullness of Summer.***

***Encourage us to LISTEN for the Song of transformation***

Leader: LISTEN and hear the wisdom of the season

***LISTEN and hear the call for inner growth***

Leader: LISTEN and hear Summer handing over to Autumn

**All : *LISTEN to the wheel of the year turning, to the Cycle of the seasons.***

***For every season’s entrance and departure is part of the Circle Of Life.***

***We sing: For the fruits of all Creation* CH4 231 Tune: *Ar Hyd Y Nos CH4 #*562 Words ©1970 Stainer & Bell Ltd Music Music Welsh Trad**

1. **For the fruits of all creation**

**thanks be to God:**

**for these gifts to every nation,**

**thanks be to God;**

**for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,**

**silent growth while we are sleeping**

**future needs in earth’s safe-keeping,**

**thanks be to God.**

1. **In the just reward of labour,**

**God’s will be done;**

**in the help we give our neighbour,**

**God’s will is done;**

**in our world-wide task of caring**

**for the hungry and despairing**

**in the harvests we are sharing,**

**God’s will is done.**

1. **For the harvests of the Spirit,**

**thanks be to God;**

**for the good we all inherit,**

**thanks be to God;**

**for the wonders that astound us,**

**for the truths that still confound us,**

**most of all, that love has found us,**

**thanks be to God**

***Prayers:*** *Listening to autumn* from *The circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp **Lynnor, Don**

Autumn is slipping through summer’s branches and I am listening. I am listening to the dying flowing forth from autumn’s being.

**I am listening to the life hidden in the dying.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to the trees taking off their lush green garments. I am listening to the leaves turning, turning, ever turning. I am listening to the burning bush of autumn.

**I am listening to the falling of this season.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to the song of transformation, to the wisdom of the season, to the losses and the grieving, to the turning loose and letting go.

**I am listening to the surrender of autumn.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to the music of the forest’s undergrowth, to the crunch of leaves beneath my feet, to the miracle of crumbling leaves becoming earth again.

**I am listening to the beauty and fragility of aging.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to the wheel of the year turning, to the cycle of the seasons, to the call for harmony and balance.

**I am listening to the circle of life.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to days growing shorter, to the air turning crisp and cool, to the slow waning of the light, to the stars that shine in cold, dark nights.

**I am listening to the growing harvest moon.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to happy harvest cries, to hearts overflowing with thanksgiving, to tables laden with gifts from the earth, to baskets overflowing with fruit.

**I am listening to the bountiful gift of autumn.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to a call for inner growth, to my need to let go of material possessions, to my need to reach out for invisible gifts.

**I am listening to a call for transformation.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to the death of old ways. I am listening to the life force turning inward.

**I am listening to the renewal of the earth.**

**I am listening.**

I am listening to summer handing over autumn.

**I am listening to the poetry of autumn.**

**I am listening.**

***Celebration Time Don***

***Celebrations today***

***May God bless you, we pray,***

***Live for Jesus, dear people,***

***May he guide you each day.***

***Anthem:*** Autumn comes in all its fullness HS 8 *William (Bill) Wallace*

**©** William Livingstone Wallace.

Autumn comes in all its fullness harvesting both land and hearts.

Autumn has its birth in winter in the stillness where life starts.

*Refrain:*

*Every death brings hope of birthing,*

*every birth enfolds life’s end,*

*for the seasons of our living*

*mirror patterns nature penned.*

Autumn gives us time for choosing seeds which bear the richest fruits,

fragile life which we can nurture into just or vain pursuits.

Buried in autumnal endings lies the shoot that bursts the tomb,

for the letting go in autumn sows the seed that births the bloom.

***Story Lynnor***

***Reading: Genesis 1: 1-13* New International Version -** Alvin Hall

### The Beginning

**1**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2**Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

**3**And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4**God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5**God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

**6**And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” **7**So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. **8**God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

**9**And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. **10**God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

**11**Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. **12**The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. **13**And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

***Reflection: Arriving at Autumn***

It’s October, and we’re arrived at the fall season; the time of depth, release, and going within. The leaves are turning and it’s a time of [letting go](https://www.awakeningself.com/writing/let-the-leaves-fall/) – but it’s also the perfect season for reflection.

Fall brings up memories. We even see this represented by the turned colors. The spent leaves symbolize the past, no longer part of the vital present as they become dry and decompose into the forest floor.

This is a helpful time to look back, not to ruminate or regret, but to [reminisce with thoughtfulness](https://plowingthroughlife.blogspot.com/2013/09/autumn-is-season-of-reflection.html#.YVaIDLhKg2w) (autumn is a time of words that begin with re-, meaning “again” or “backward”). We can reflect and re-evaluate the year and our lives, gaining awareness in the process.

If you take some time during the fall season to reflect on your life intentionally, it greatly benefits you. Old business can be resolved and released. New understanding can emerge. And we can clear the path within ourselves for the insight and clarity that potentially emerge through the winter season. Winter is the time we sit within, in the silence and stillness, to discover our inner essence. By preparing ourselves well through autumn – mentally, emotionally, and spiritually – winter will be a very transformative season.

We invite you to write down your autumn reflections, as a group or privately if you prefer – to consciously review your life. We have included in your order of service some good questions to reflect on in the autumn season, and space to write your thoughts.

***Activities Lynnor to introduce children’s activities.***

Closing brief after activity: **Chrissie**

You may think of some other helpful questions to explore. As you discover the answers within you, consider how you’d like to prepare for the year ahead, and what you want to invite into your life.

Honour the reflective time of year we’re in and you’ll find yourself attuned to nature, the seasons, and your inner Self. What do you notice in your autumn reflections?

***Offering***

***Prayer of Dedication of the Offering*** (said together)

**Bountiful God, we bring these offerings to you and ask that as the earth is transformed season by season, may we be open to change and transformation in our own lives. Help us to live and speak the good news of your love so that all human life can be an offering to you. Amen.**

***We sing:*** ***O God you’re part of all our life Tune: Petersham*** *CH3 444*

1. **O God, you’re part of all our life, each moment born anew.**

**You give us breath and set us free to live and work with you.**

**To make decisions, shape our world, the world that is to be,**

**With trusting love you give each one responsibility**

1. **You love our great mysterious world,, you want a better life**

**For all your living creatures pained by selfishness or strife.**

**You love our frightened, hurting world, you share adversities,**

**Creating still, each moment bring new possibilities.**

1. **We thank you, God, for this our home, our planet rich and round,**

**So beautiful to look upon, with fragile flowers crowned.**

**As part of all we’ll find our place, respecting water, air**

**That children born in ages hence may find it wholesome, fair.**

1. **A friendly cosmos welcomes us, we welcome warmth of sun,**

**Your lure us toward harmony, concern for everyone.**

**Good stewards of our heritage, the soil and atmosphere**

**Discovering that as we work, Behold! Our God is here.**

***Sending: May the mystery of God enfold us*** *AA 95 Joy Cowley,* ***Lynnor***

**May the mystery of God enfold us,**

**may the wisdom of God uphold us,**

**may the fragrance of God be around us,**

**may the brightness of God surround us,**

**may the wonder of God renew us,**

**may the loving of God flow through us,**

**may the peace of God deeply move us,**

**may the moving of God bring us peace.**

**THREE FOLD-AMEN**

**Questions to reflect on in the autumn season:**

What has happened in the last year in my life?  
How have I grown?  
What have I learned?  
What longs to pour out of my heart, to be expressed, to be felt, to be nurtured?  
How have I contributed to others and the world?  
What has my past contributed to my present?  
How can I bring past situations to a completion, for closure?  
What communications still need to be made?  
What is ready within me to [release](https://www.awakeningself.com/writing/let-the-leaves-fall/)?  
What positive qualities do I see within myself?   
What am I grateful for?

**Service prepared and led by Lynnor Cooke, Don McConnochie, Catherine Macdonald, Chrissie Parker**

**Please pray for GPP and the church in the world**

Our prayer theme – “new wine in a new wineskin”.

**DIARY**

**Note:** Communion services cancelled until Covid restrictions lifted

**SUNDAY 27** **EPIPHANY 8** Transfiguration

**10.00am Celebration Pot Luck Service St A’s Hall**

**Matawhero– no service**

3.00pm Sea of Faith

Monday 28 9.00am Walking Group

Tuesday 110.00am Open Door

Wednesday 29.45am mainly music

7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service St Andrew’s

Friday 4 1.00pm Choir practise

Saturday 5 **Over 90’s morning tea cancelled**

**SUNDAY 6** **LENT 1**

**9.00am Matawhero Communion Service**

**10.00am St. Andrew’sWorship Service**

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| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **27th February**  Celebration  Pot luck | **Matawhero**  No service  **St A’s Hall:**  Alvin Hall | **Seton Clare**  Alvin Hall, Cathy Porter | Trish Kwak, Paulina Melief | Celebration Service  Not rostered |
| 6 March | **Matawhero**  Jill Wallis  **St A’s:**  xx | **Pat Smith**  Jean Hillyard, Jenny Lawton | Ruth McLennan, Val McGreevy | **Sound:**  Hans Kwak  **Visual:** Alan Groves (or Linda Savage) |

**Minister**: Rev Jin Sook Kim for pastoral care ph: 021 02952589

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*Matawhero Historic Church, Church Road*

***Office: 06 868 5513******Hours 10-12 Tuesday – Friday***

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