

# Pastor's Notes

This month's Pastor's notes were taken from: R.C. Sproul, "Before the Face of God: Book 3: A Daily Guide for Living from the Old Testament."

## The Covenant Pattern

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." [Exod. 20:2]. Read Exodus 20:1-21.

If the Bible for the early church was the Old Testament, because the New Testament was only then being written, then the early church teaching and study related the Old Testament to its fulfillment in Christ. Early Christians studied law and gospel, shadows of expected deliverance and the substance now experienced. They related the Old Testament revelation of God with the new covenant. That comparative content is taught infrequently today.

One great unifying structure of the old and new covenants is the covenant structure itself. By coming to grips with that covenant pattern we can see one of the most important ways of relating the Old and New Testaments. Recent studies of ancient Near Eastern documents show that covenants between a lord and a vassal followed a certain format and contained certain elements. The covenant pattern began with a *preamble* identifying the parties involved, and particularly the superior party initiating the covenant. In Exodus 20 the preamble says that the Lord, *Yahweh*, is sovereign, and is "your" God. It identifies both parties.

The second element, the *historical prologue*, told what the master previously had done for his vassal, establishing why the vassal should serve the master. In the Biblical covenants the historical prologues state what God has done to redeem his people, the history of their being brought out of a life of slavery in Egypt. In theological terms we call this "grace." God graciously delivered his people, and on the basis of that grace he then gives them his law by which to live.

The third element in the covenant was a set of non-negotiable *stipulations* telling this vassal what was expected. In the Bible these laws morally bound an entire covenant community.

## Coram Deo ("before the face of God")

The Old Testament covenants were never negotiated. God himself drew up all the stipulations. Despite the bounty of the new covenant, we still tend to seek to negotiate with God. Search for instances in your life where you have tried to add your own terms to the covenant of grace. Seek to live by and thank God for the riches of his covenant.

For further study: Genesis 15; Isaiah 43:14-28

# Upcoming Services

## 19 Apr

Sermon series: Biblical perspectives  
Sermon title: A biblical perspective on friendship  
Speaker: Lucas Gan  
W/ leader: Hannah Naveen  
AV: Isaiah Chin & Jarrel Ho  
Communion: Pastor Paul Long  
Ushers: Hoa Duong & Phoebe Cruz  
Emblems: Pam Watt & Betty Saw  
Morning Tea: Alfred Teng & Siong Twee Saw  
M/ service speaker: Robert Teh

## 26 Apr

Sermon series: Themes on John  
Sermon title: You Must Be Born Again!  
Speaker: Max Liddle  
W/ leader: Laura Wrigley

## 3 May

Sermon series: Themes on John  
Sermon title: Living Water (John 4.1-42)  
Speaker: Max Liddle  
W/ leader: Mary Ann Driesen

# Contacts

## Pastor

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## Elders

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## Office admin

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YouTube



Statement of Faith



[www.kelstoncommunitychurch.co.nz](http://www.kelstoncommunitychurch.co.nz)

# APOLOGETICS



12 APRIL 2026



KELSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

# WELCOME TO CHURCH.

Good morning! We are delighted that you are here to worship with us this morning.

Sunday School for children up to and including intermediate school age is in recess due to school holidays. Playrooms are at the back of the main hall and in the church house (upstairs).

If you are a disciple of Jesus and understand the symbolism and purpose of the Holy Communion, we invite you to join us for communion.

We invite you to stay for morning tea after the service. We would love the chance to get to know you better.

## It's not about us. It's about our Lord Jesus Christ.



Share Christ



Serve Christ



Grow in Christ

**12 APRIL 2026**

**Sermon title:** Creation Without a Creator: Five Necessary 'Miracles'

**Speaker:** Andrew Mulcahy

**Worship Leader:** Jonathan Meyer

**Audio & Visual:** Jarrel Ho & Jonathan Wrigley

**Communion:** Chin

**Ushers:** Alfred Teng & Chara Saw

**Emblems:** Pam Watt & Betty Saw

**Morning Tea:** Alfred Teng & Siong Twee Saw

**Mandarin service** (in the church house after communion)

Mandarin service speaker: Pastor Paul Long

## Announcements

### Financial offering

Please refer to printed church bulletin for offering amounts.

### To donate via bank transfer:

Kelston Community Church 12-3026-0373749-00

The office is in the process of checking and finalising the Tax Donation Receipts for the full year ended 31 March 2026. The finalised receipts will be issued next week by email. Any queries please email James Gan or Lye Chye at [treasury.kccnz@gmail.com](mailto:treasury.kccnz@gmail.com).

### Pastoral

Pastor Paul and KCC leadership pray and make pastoral visits to various KCC members. If you need prayer and support, please contact Pastor Paul, [paspaullong@gmail.com](mailto:paspaullong@gmail.com), 021 0240 3999.

### Fire Alarm

In the event of a fire alarm, please exit the building immediately by the nearest fire exit and gather in the carpark close to Archibald Road. Please assist anyone with mobility needs to evacuate safely.

### Donations to the Building Fund

The church leadership would like to express our gratitude to our congregation who are contributing so generously to the new building. We do not require any more interest free loans but would welcome all donations to the building fund. We would love to pay off our loan as soon as possible.

Please send all donations to the following bank account: 12-3026-0373749-51. May the Lord bless us as we begin this new and exciting phase in our church.

### School Holiday Program – No Sunday School (SS)

School Holiday Program – involving crafts and games – will be running today and next Sunday (12th & 19th April). There are no SS classes.

### Ignite Youth Camp

**3 July - 6 July**

Houghtons Bush Camp. 3 Jul – 6 Jul.

Ignite youth camp is happening! The dates are 3rd of July to 6th July 2026. The location this year is just an hour's drive from KCC - Houghtons bush camp, out near Muriwai beach.

Please save the date and keep your eyes peeled as more details come through. If you want to register interest, please contact: Lucas Gan: 022 383 3052 / [Lucasganze@gmail.com](mailto:Lucasganze@gmail.com)

## Youngies vs Oldies

18 / 4

Saturday, 18 April 2026. Avondale Gym / KCC. 9:30am-4:30pm.

Attention KCC! Our annual sports competition has arrived: Youngies vs. Oldies is taking place on the 18th of April 2026! 25 and under vs 26 and older! Invite all your friends! All are welcome. The schedule is as follows:

**Sports (9.30am to 2pm)** – Meet at Avondale College Gym, access is along Rosebank Road, opposite number 184.

10:00 - 11:30: Volleyball  
11:30 - 12:30: Ultimate Frisbee  
12:30 - 14:00: Lunch + Badminton

**Mind challenges (2.30pm to 4.30pm)** – Meet at KCC.

Ongoing challenges of: Typing speed, Human reflexes, Rummikub, Lego building, Spelling Bee, Chopstick proficiency.




For more information, please contact Lucas Gan, [lucasganze@gmail.com](mailto:lucasganze@gmail.com).

## Job Vacancy – Learning Assistant

Elim Christian College Mt Albert is looking for a learning assistant (teacher aide). Please check out their website or scan the QR Code for more info.



## Regular Activities

Ignite Youth	Prayer Meetings	Elderly Fellowship
 Monthly	 Tues 7:30pm zoom Wed 12:30pm Beryl's	 Chinese group Alternate Fridays

## Homegroups

<b>Agape</b>	Sat @ 7pm
<b>Amongus BASIC</b>	Sun @ 12:30pm. Every 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday (uni) 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun @ 12pm (youths)
<b>Beloved</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri @ 7:30pm (during term time)
<b>Harmony</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri @ 7pm
<b>Kainos</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri @ 7pm
<b>Serenity</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun @ 2:30pm (young adults)
<b>Shalom</b>	Alternate Sat @ 7pm (Chinese)
<b>Sowers</b>	Alternate Fri @ 7:45pm
<b>Temperance</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun @ 1pm

If you are interested in joining a homegroup, please contact Brandon Vista, [brandonvista@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonvista@yahoo.com).