

**Sunday 20th September 2020**

**Call to worship Psalm 118v1 NLT**

Whakawhetai ki a Ihowa; he pai hoki ia,  
he pumau tonu hoki tana mahi tohu.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever

**Prayer**

**Songs:** 10 000 Reasons / God of wonders

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**Notices**

**Kid's talk, prayer and Kid's leave - Heather Hockings**

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**Song:** Tuhia

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**'Knowing Jesus and Making Him known'**

**Sermon**  
**brother' v25**

**'Epaphroditus, a true**

**Philippians 2v25-30 p958 New Living Translation**

<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. <sup>26</sup> I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I

would not have one sorrow after another.

<sup>28</sup> So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. <sup>29</sup> Welcome him in the Lord's love<sup>†</sup> and with great joy, and give him the honour that people like him deserve. <sup>30</sup> For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away. NLT

## **Epaphroditus**

(his name means handsome/gracious/charming, a good name for a boy, must have been a beautiful baby)

Probably originally from Philippi, where he became a Christian and a leader in the church there.

He brought news and financial support for Paul (see chapter 4v10-18)

He was a true brother (fellow Christian), co-worker, soldier, trusted messenger (apostle), help (minister) v25&30

**Q:** What are the qualities you admire in others?      **Q:** What adjectives would describe you?

## **Severe Sickness v27**

How do you cope when circumstances are far from what we would expect or desire?

'We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps'. Proverbs 16v9

No miraculous healing was given to Epaphroditus, even though Paul was an Apostle. God however brought healing naturally to him.

## **The Philippian Church, Epaphroditus and Paul**

What we see is the genuine relationship and mutual concern shared between the 3.

This is something we'd do well to emulate.

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## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

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**Songs:** Amazing grace / In Christ alone

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## **Blessing**

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” (1 Tim. 1:2)