



Sunday 19th April 2020

10am – Julia Grace and World Vision

Hope Sunday @ Mangapapa Church & St Christopher's Anglican Church, Christchurch

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Church Office Hours: 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).
Dione is still working, but from home. Please don't call the Church Office as the phone is unable to be answered during the lockdown, but you can still email the office as these will be getting checked every morning during normal office hours.

For emergencies or pastoral issues, please contact Paula.

The world is experiencing a lot of uncertainty right now. But in the midst of the fear and isolation, you are not alone. This Sunday we're gathering online across our nation, along with St Christopher's Anglican Church in Christchurch, for a one-hour, live streamed service to inspire and instil hope. With music and a message from Tui award-winning artist, **Julia Grace** and hosted and supported by **World Vision**.



Julia Grace is one of New Zealand's top female gospel singer/songwriters. She is also a renowned mental wellness advocate who speaks regularly about crisis, depression, anxiety and stress – topics especially relevant to us all at this time.

Tune in and be blessed as she tackles the big topics and breaks them down into memorable ideas, giving you a set of practical tools to help support your brain and body.

We can't wait to see you online at 10am this Sunday!

To join the service, hold your 'ctrl' key down and click on the following link at 10am on Sunday.

www.wvnz.org.nz/sunday

(Note: This is live, not a recorded service so you will not be able to view it after the session.)

**"At what time of day was Adam created?
A little before Eve."**



Paula writes...

Firstly: congratulations on making 3½ weeks of lockdown! I have heard lovely stories of grace and people caring for each other. I have heard stories of people growing in prayer, I have heard challenges of working under pressure, I have heard of families thriving and families struggling. Through it all, we trust God is with us in this time and that there are things we will learn, that will grow us and change us for good.



We don't know what changes will come this coming week with lockdown, so we will respond as decisions come out about the best ways for us to continue as a church community in the coming weeks.

This Sunday, I really hope you will join us in a live service hosted by World Vision and led by Julia Grace (a wonderful kiwi musician), and two churches: ourselves and St Christopher's – a mission focussed Anglican Church in Christchurch. It will be very simple to join on a computer or phone, will go for one hour, and is on the theme of HOPE.

As I have been reflecting on Easter, I have been thinking a lot about Easter Saturday. A funny day, an in-between day. It has the hangover of sadness from the crucifixion, yet the hope that Sunday's coming - but it's not here yet. It's limbo. And yet it is a limbo with hope.

I have been asked before: what is my "song"? What is a word or theme that defines my story?

For me it is hope. As a Jesus follower, I am a person of hope. We are people of hope. We are people who believe in a God of second chances – and third and fourth (and ninety-ninth!). We are a people who believe our God is FOR us in the strongest battle. We are a people who believe our God is with us in the darkest time. We are a people who believe this world is not all there is but we have a sure hope for something so much better.

Yet we live in a time of in-between-ness (if that's a word). It can be stretching, frustrating and testing. We know answers are coming but they are not all here yet.

Why do I like Easter Saturday? Because it is a metaphor of life. Because it is real – it is honest. Although my God is powerful and amazing, He hasn't fixed everything in my life, my family, others I love, and healing hasn't happened in many situations where I hoped and prayed it would – yet. And I see this in so many people's stories.

I believe in a big God – a huge God. I believe in a God who can heal and restore. I believe in a prayer-answering God. I believe in a God who does protect and care - and yet my heart breaks for some of the tragedies and unanswered situations.

I love to celebrate Easter Sunday – HE IS RISEN. But many days feel like Saturday. But the Good News is, God promises He will be with us in anything we face AND..... Sunday is coming!

Blessings, Paula



1. **'Prayer Chain'** – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can still be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.
2. **Wanted** - Good condition towels and sheets to sew into cot sheets and hand towels for TOSS. Sewing thread. Text Nicola on 0221319171 or email nicandbruce@yahoo.com
3. **CAP** - Officially I'm on holiday for the fortnight but given the changes to school holidays I'm working. I've had no new clients register but have helped a person reach budget preparation stage this week. Please pray that people needing help hear about us.



