

# Call for Papers

## *Tuning Our Hearts to the Psalms*

### **How the Bible's Songbook Can Shape Worship and Witness in Aotearoa**

#### **Conference Date & Location**

July 17-19th, 2024, Waipuna Hotel, Auckland

#### **Conference Theme**

Our conference will gather biblical scholars, pastors, songwriters, theologians, worship leaders, creatives, and students to explore how the Psalms might shape the songs, prayers, and witness of Christian communities in Aotearoa New Zealand. The program will include presentations on the psalms by academics, creative workshops for songwriters and church leaders, corporate worship, and more. Expected outcomes of the conference include:

- An edited volume based on conference proceedings
- New recorded music inspired by the psalms and embodying the languages and cultures of Māori, Pasifika, and Pakeha peoples
- Pastoral and liturgical practices reflective of the rich content of the psalter

#### **Call for Papers**

Scholars, students, and others working in the theological and wider academic community are invited to propose papers intended to help attendees engage the Psalms and/or imagine how they might shape the praying, singing, and witnessing life of the church in Aotearoa. We encourage proposals from diverse cultural, ethnic, and dis/ability perspectives. While preference will be given to those who are able to attend the conference in person, we will consider proposals for papers that can be delivered by zoom or pre-recorded, on a case-by-case basis.

We are particularly interested in proposals that:

- Closely examine specific psalms or types of psalms within their literary, historical, theological, and/or contemporary cultural context
- Identify core themes or contributions of the psalms pertinent to contemporary communities of faith
- Explore the reception and/or contextualization of the psalms in specific ecclesial or cultural contexts (not restricted to Aotearoa or the Pacific)
- Engage issues of cultural contextualization pertinent to engaging the Psalms in Aotearoa, including reflections on artistic, poetic, liturgical, cultural, and musical forms/styles/patterns that might assist faith communities in contextualizing the songs, prayers, and teaching of the psalter in contemporary contexts

Our desire is for papers to draw on relevant academic scholarship, while also making the content accessible to a broad audience of attendees gathered to explore how the Psalms can shape worship and witness in Aotearoa.

#### **Proposal Guidelines**

Please send conference proposals to [michael.rhodes@carey.ac.nz](mailto:michael.rhodes@carey.ac.nz). We encourage interested parties to submit proposals early and will begin reviewing proposals on a rolling basis from 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. The deadline for submissions is 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

Proposals should include:

1. The title of the proposed presentation, along with an abstract of 250-500 words.
2. Contact details, including the submitter's name, institutional affiliation, phone number, and email.
3. Abstracts should clearly indicate the scholarly approach taken in relation to the subject, and end with an explanation of the relevance of the paper to the conference's overall goal.

### **Plenary Speakers**

- Brent Strawn, Professor of Old Testament at Duke Divinity School, North Carolina
- Jill Firth, Lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament at Ridley College, Melbourne
- Te Hira Paenga, Tikanga Māori Dean at St John's Theological College, Auckland
- Anameka Paenga, Co-Principal of Te Wānanga Ihorangi formerly Oati
- Michael Rhodes, Lecturer in Old Testament at Carey Baptist College, Auckland. Michael will be speaking alongside other Carey faculty members.

### **Call for Workshops**

Please note there is a separate call for workshop proposals for those wishing to present content related to using the Psalms in a more participatory, accessible format. See our website for more information.