



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2020



## Care and Concern for the Things of God

The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. Psalm 25:14, NIV.

One of the greatest privileges in life surely is to be let into the deep and vulnerable places of another person's heart. It is truly special to be trusted by another person to such an extent that they would be willing to share the things that are precious and personal to them.

This sharing of hearts can really only happen in the context of a deep, intimate and trusting bond. It might occur between spouses, siblings, best friends or between parents and children. To have the opportunity to be involved in such sharing is to have a rich life indeed.

We carefully pick those with whom we share, not out of paranoia or a desire to be secretive, but because we know that great pain will ensue if our intimate trust is disrespected.

What really impacts me powerfully is the realisation that God Himself also wants to share the things that are precious to Him. God has deep and personal feelings and thoughts and He has a desire to share Himself with us, His children. When God shows us things that are close to His heart, He is entrusting us with that what is dear to Him.

As we are made in His image, I would think that the conditions for this entrustment are similar to those on the human plane. I don't think God would readily share things with us if we show no care or concern for Him. But when we really do love Him, we also learn to love the things that matter to Him.

It really is amazing. We probably all realise that we are weak, feeble, and in many ways, untrustworthy human beings. Yet God is willing to risk sharing His heart with us, His children. I truly cannot think of a greater privilege in life than to be entrusted with even the smallest sliver or the tiniest glimpse of personal and intimate thoughts from our Maker and King. For that reason, I think we may pray that God Himself would qualify us to be entrusted to get to know Him more, and to better understand the things that matter to Him.

- *Peter Brokaar* Seeds of the Kingdom

## World Day of Prayer Service

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 7:00 pm at St. Mark's Church.

Combined churches of Rakaia.

Shared supper following the service.

Country of Study - Zimbabwe. "Rise! Take up Your Mat and Walk.

Main Bible text is from John 5: 2-9a Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has 5 porticoes. In these lay many invalids - blind, lame and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take up your mat and walk. "At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Service prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee, Zimbabwe.

Adapted for use in New Zealand by WDP Aotearoa NZ



**Presbytery Gathering - 27th to 29th March at St David's Union Church Ashburton**

With General Assembly planned for later in 2020 this Gathering will be our only Gathering during 2020. Register for this important event as we gather from across the Presbytery.

The draft Programme can be downloaded [here](#)

Register for the Gathering here - <https://forms.gle/d6NjWnjoW9aimrBB9>

**St. Andrew's Rakaia**

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:30 am Fit Kids | Music and movement for preschoolers, friendship for adults.

1:00 pm Steady as You Go | Exercises for seniors.

Enjoy the benefits of a range of gentle exercises for strength, balance, walking and co-ordination.



Mark your calendar! International Day of Happiness.

Friday, 20th March 9.30 am at St. Andrew's. NIA DANCE. Dance, sing, watch.

With Sonita and Dorothy. Free Community Event.

\* Arii is on holiday leave till the 9th March.

Any concerns please contact your mission groups or parish council.

Services for March

1 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	St. John's	Rev. John Titlow
6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	St. Mark's	Combined Churches
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8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's	Rev. Neville Burns
15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's	Rev. Arii Taimataora
	10:30 am	St. John's	Rev. Neville Burns

# PRAYER



Father in heaven I thank You that You created us for deep, intimate and personal relationship, not only with other human beings, but also with You. Please teach me to love You more and to care deeply for the things that are important and precious to Your heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- *Peter Brokaar* Seeds of the Kingdom