



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

26TH APRIL 2020



The Government has announced New Zealand will move out of Alert Level 4 lockdown at 11.59pm on Monday 27 April. We are still in Alert Level 4 until we wake up on Tuesday 28 April. I hope and pray that you are all in good spirit as Level 3 is approaching. Regarding church activity, nothing has changed in terms of social distancing. No gathering still continues. I am sure that many in our faith communities are wondering how will the way we do things as a church be like? Will it be business as usual? Or are we to explore different ways to be a faith community in a different world? This is a journey that we all will discover together.

Pruning

"He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't bear fruit; and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it can bear more fruit." John 15:2 (KNT)

Pruning hurts. There is loss and confusion. Dreams may take a battering and opportunities disappear. And yet, the last part of this verse gives us hope – a branch is pruned, "So that it can bear more fruit." The cutting back is not in vain. It does not signal that our life is slowly ebbing away. While there's little joy in the process, we can be sure that it will not be wasted. Not one iota. A new season of fruit will eventually emerge. There will be changed character and fresh opportunities for service.

Jesus goes on to say, "People who remain in me, and I in them, are the ones who bear plenty of fruit. Without me you can do nothing." Remaining in Jesus means centering our life on him, drawing our sustenance from Christ. Every day. It also involves obeying his commands and believing that God is truly good. In practical terms it means not trying to manage our way out of our situation, or pretend we can solve problems that are well beyond us. Submitting to the pruning. Trusting God that whatever he is doing is both for our good and his kingdom. Who knows what will emerge from a season of pruning? It is not for us to speculate. Just to remain.

To consider: Where or in what way/s might you/we be experiencing pruning during this lockdown?

-Akaroa Newsletter

ANZAC ODE

The lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint and strengthens the
powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and
the young will fall exhausted. But those who wait on
the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount
up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be
weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40: 28-31

They went with songs to battle, they were young,
straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

They were staunch to the end against odds
uncounted. They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At
the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

From the Seasons of the Land by Bill Bennett.



Full of Hope by the Rev David Bryant. [From The Manse Window]

A group of friends were gathered together in a corner of the prisoner-of-war camp. It was 1943 and there was no end in sight to the war. They spent hours thinking about their wives, families, and girlfriends far across the sea. Conditions in the camp were not good. Food was in short supply and of poor quality. Accommodation consisted of cold bleak dormitories and bunk beds. There was no privacy and if any of the prisoners fell ill, medical care was scant. Some of the guards treated them badly.

The men needed something to cheer them and give them hope. One Sunday morning, someone came up with an idea. "Why don't we hold a communion service? It would remind us of home and give us an opportunity to pray for our loved ones" The others agreed it would be an excellent idea. But there was not a resident padre in the camp, and no one possessed a service book.

Among them were Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Church of England, Church of Scotland, Salvation Army members and some other churches. All were use to different types of worship. How would they ever find something to suit men from so many varying traditions? And who would take the service? At last, a quiet voice piped up. "I'm a Methodist minister. Will I do?" There was an immediate buzz of conversation.

"Of course. We would like you to take the service for us" came the unanimous reply. Under the conditions of the camp life, differences were forgotten. "What about the service book?" someone asked. The minister smiled. "Don't worry. I think I can remember most of it by heart and I'm sure God won't mind if we get a few bits wrong or leave some of the words out".

But they needed bread and a drinking cup for communion. There was no spare bread to be found in the camp - the poor men were too hungry to leave anything on their plates. And wine in a prisoner-of war camp was as scarce as water in the Sahara. One of the men slipped into the sleeping hut and emerged holding a very battered tin mug. The men decided on the only possible alternative for the wine - water. One out of the group trudged off to the standpipe in the parade ground and returned with the brimming mug. "Has anyone any suggestions for the bread?" the minister asked. "I work in the camp kitchen," a voice from the back called out. "I can get hold of a turnip." "That will do fine," the minister replied after a moment of surprised silence.

So, the men lined up in a corner of the camp while the minister recalled as much of the service as he could. Then they took communion. sharing the cup of water and the pieces of chopped up turnip, it was an incredibly special occasion and brought the men closer together as they remembered the families waiting for their return one day. I have always found this a very moving story, full of hope. These men from such diverse religious backgrounds showed us an example by joining together in a single act of worship found in the First Letter of St John.

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. If we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfect in us.

The First Letter of John has two main purposes, to encourage its readers to live in fellowship with God and with his Son, Jesus Christ, and to warn them against following false teachings that would destroy that fellowship. In opposition to this teaching, the writer clearly states that Jesus Christ was a real human being and emphasizes that all who believe in Jesus and love God must also love one another.



There is always hope

Anzac Slice Recipe

Ingredients	Directions
1 ¼ cups plain flour	Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan forced. Grease and line a slice pan with baking paper.
1 ¼ cups rolled oats	Combine oats, sugar, and coconut in a large bowl. Make a well in the centre.
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar	Place butter and syrup in a saucepan over low heat. Cook & stir occasionally, for 8-10 minutes or until smooth.
1 cup shredded coconut	Combine baking soda & boiling water in a separate bowl. Remove butter from heat and add baking soda mixture.
150g butter, chopped	Add mixture to oats, sugar, and coconut, stir until combined.
2 tablespoons golden syrup	Transfer to prepared pan. Using back of spoon, press mixture evenly into pan.
½ teaspoon baking soda	Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden.
2 tablespoons boiling water	Cool in pan, cut into squares, and serve.

Print this sheet out and create your own poppy for Anzac Day. Wear it, or put it on your window.

#StandAtDawn



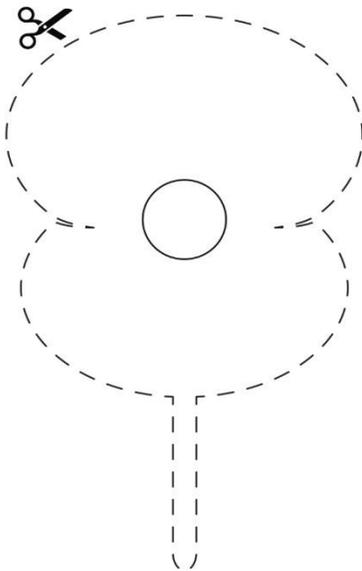
Colour your own Anzac Day

and draw you and your family next to the house below



Create your own poppy

and wear it with your family on Anzac Day



Wordfind

Can you find all the words that relate to Anzac Day?

B	J	C	N	O	Y	O	N	S	E	U	Q	E	L	Q	Anzac Cove
S	R	O	L	I	A	S	Z	G	A	X	H	E	O	P	Gallipoli
E	T	P	A	N	Z	A	C	C	O	V	E	M	L	A	Mounted Rifles
H	S	P	R	O	C	L	E	M	A	C	V	M	X	B	Chunuk Bair
O	E	N	I	T	S	E	L	A	P	O	U	O	O	K	Daisy Patch
N	G	J	M	E	M	O	R	I	A	L	H	S	D	W	Maori Pioneers
M	A	O	R	I	P	I	O	N	E	E	R	S	S	P	Western Front
Z	Z	P	A	S	S	C	H	E	N	D	A	E	L	E	Somme
O	A	E	R	S	R	E	L	L	E	N	N	U	T	H	Passchendaele
W	E	S	T	E	R	N	F	R	O	N	T	P	Q	M	Le Quesnoy
P	S	E	L	F	I	R	D	E	T	N	U	O	M	E	Tunnellers
P	T	H	C	T	A	P	Y	S	I	A	D	P	Q	D	Sailors
I	L	O	P	I	L	L	A	G	C	J	W	P	W	A	Medals
X	G	C	H	U	N	U	K	B	A	I	R	Y	T	L	Memorial
X	W	M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	Y	Z	D	S	Poppy
															Palestine
															Camel Corps
															Gaza
															Jerusalem

Send us your pics!
Upload all your cool family drawings and Anzac Day photos to our Facebook page [@NZ Defence Force](#)

Psalm 33 reminds us that the steadfast love of the Lord remains upon us and the earth. It is by his word and being that we are sustained. It is through the risen Christ that we are sustained and saved. Let us be encouraged and hold firm to this hope.

Psalm 33

The Greatness and Goodness of God

For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

- 5 He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
- 6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
- 7 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

We are approaching Anzac Day; where we would gather at dawn as a community to commemorate our veterans and the fallen. I will be doing a short Anzac message and will send a link.

I invite you to join me on Saturday morning through the link.

At 6am on Saturday 25th April, the nation is invited to participate in commemorating Anzac by coming out to your driveway and stand in a minute silence.

Keep Connected

Sunday 9.00 am with the Moderator Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio.
A time of Devotion reflecting the Lectionary reading for the day

<https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/>

Sunday 10:00 am with Dr Rev Tokerau Joseph, Mairangi, Castor Bay Parish
A 30-minute responsive service with singing. <https://youtu.be/BKXvwTAwDro>

Video service, podcast, and Zoom with Rev Arii and Tai
Timaru Presbyterian Parish with Brent and Rory can be sourced through Dorothy.

Father God, We Need Your Peace,

Today Father God we come to you. We are in need of your peace to come and settle our hearts and spirits right now. When we find that our mind cannot find rest when our needs and worries overwhelm us. When we feel anxious for what tomorrow may look like. Help us to know the truth that you are the peace we need. That we can call on you for the peace that passes all understanding. That we lay down the worries, the concerns, and the cares. Today we cloak ourselves with your peace. We ask that you would bring comfort. May our fears be washed away by the waterfall of your perfect love. Thank you that we do not face tomorrow on our own.

Thank you that you are greater than all that we would face and that we do not face it alone.

May we take Courage from you. Let faith arise.

Amen.

