



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

7TH JUNE 2020



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From the Assembly Executive

Dear friends and colleagues,

During lockdown, I re-read a couple of books: *Shackleton's Way* by Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell and *Leading at the Edge* by Dennis Perkins. Both focus on Shackleton's 1914-16 Antarctic expedition, and focus on the remarkable journey from the 'Endurance'.

The books tell of being trapped in the ice 45 days after setting off; how the crew tried to free the ship, but in the end had to remain on board – trapped; how the ice crushes the ship on day 327; the journey of pulling lifeboats on sleds across the ice for a further 176 days until the ice opened and they could set a course for Elephant Island where they landed six days later; how a small party set sail for South Georgia – in a life boat – some 600 miles away and 16 days later landed – but on the wrong side, and had to trek over glaciers to reach the whaling station on the other side of the island. Having rested, these folk boarded another ship and set sail to rescue those left on Elephant Island.

It took four different attempts and 128 days before they were able to reach and rescue them. And all who started out were safely returned! A remarkable story. Each book looks at leadership in those unprecedented times.

Re-reading these and reflecting on leadership I have seen over the past couple of months, three things - qualities or attributes - struck me: I have seen among us leaders who are compassionate; who are calm; who are prepared.

In times to come, I wonder if we will see the lasting legacy of those qualities as reflecting underlying values that guided decisions and actions we have taken.

Wayne Matheson
Executive office

DISCERNING OUR PRIORITIES AS WE MOVE FORWARD

The world has changed. We are changed. how will we respond.

Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic has changed us. It has changed people individually. It has changed communities. It has changed our world. God is with us - this hasn't changed. But the way we are able to worship and be the church has. Things will continue to evolve for some time, and we need to be ready for continual adjustments. This is nothing new for God's people - for generations, Christians have been confronted with situations where they have needed to change the way to enable people to express their love for God and love for people.

Walter Brueggemann's three categories for Psalm's as a way of organizing our priorities. Through Psalms, across generations, God's people have continually heard God's voice in times of thanksgiving and in times of despair.

Let us focus on the Psalms of new orientation. Songs of surprising new life. Songs of coherence, new creation, new understanding.

In this Parish are we still disorientated, waiting to go back to normal or are we ready to move forward into a new normal, a new orientation of what it means to be ourselves and be a community. We might want to consider what is one thing we would want to let go? what is one thing we would like to have a go at!

We welcome feedback on the following questions, perhaps some guidelines for moving forward.
How do we approach organizing our priorities.

Key Areas. WORSHIP/ DISCIPLESHIP
PASTORAL CARE
ADMINISTRATION
CHILDREN / YOUTH
HEALTH AND SAFETY / PROPERTY

You feedback is important to us to help move forward and do better be better.

Mayfield Thoughts

After quite a period of not getting together because of the lock down our mission team gathered last week. We saw some new faces there as well as others. The chatter before the meeting could be taken as an indication that gathering face-to-face is something special. Appreciation of online forms of worship was given as well as the phone calls that have been happening. Time was spent on pros and cons of restarting given the current virus situation and the colder weather, and eventually members decided a June restart would be appropriate with the protocols in place. We look forward to that in late June.

Our potentially troublesome ash tree in the Manse grounds has been dealt to so we can be happy with that. Can I say on another subject that in many places in scripture we are encouraged to use our speech in ways that builds people up rather than tearing down. The wee passage following is a small reflection on that subject

"We should learn to look at the faults of others only through love's eyes, with charity, patience, and compassion.

We do not know the secret history of the lives of those about us.

We do not know what piercing sorrows have produced the scars which we see in peoples souls.

We do not know the pains and trials which make life hard to many with whom we are tempted to be impatient.

If we knew all the secret burdens and the heart wounds which many carry hidden beneath their smiling faces, we would be patient and gentle with all men."

Trinity Sunday 7 June.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God almighty,
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Matthew 28; 16 - 20

The Great Commission

So, the eleven disciples went off to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had instructed them to go.

There they saw him, and worshipped him, though some hesitated.

Jesus came towards them and addressed them.

'All authority in heaven and on earth", he said, ' has been given to me! So, you must go and make all the nations into disciples. Baptize them in the name of the father, and of the son, and the holy spirit. Teach them to observe everything I have commanded you. And look: I am with you, every single day, to the very end of the age.

The Trinity is an affirmation of the beautifully complex, dynamic, and great God who is three-in-one. Contemplation of and relationship with this trinitarian God is an awe-inspiring, holy experience that is at the heart of Christian worship

Prayer for the World

Lord, your son taught us to pray and never to lose heart. But frankly God there are times that wear us down and we feel faint-hearted. We feel weary and close to giving up.

There are times we do lose hope and give up.
It is times like these that we need to hold each other up in prayer.
It is times like these that we need to encourage each other.
It is times like these that we need to be there for one another.
It is times like these that we need to cry out to God for those in need.

But God it is not just for those in need, it is also for justice that we cry out.
We plead for those who cannot speak up for themselves. We stand up for those whose rights have been violated. We seek peace with justice for those who need both,
we pray for justice for those who are at their weakest.

We thank you for your justice at work in the world. We thank you for hearing our prayers and answering them. We thank you for showing your caring and protection.
We thank you for your mercy that you pour out with justice.
In all of this, may we be found faithful. Amen

St. John's Methven

Following focus meeting held on 2nd of June.

Rev Arii asked that we think about 'Discerning Our Priorities as We Move Forward'. We have enjoyed Rev Arii & Tai's podcasts during lockdown and wonder if Arii continues doing this for us to use in our services it might provide some sense of continuity for our districts. Rev Arii asked if St Johns would like to provide a community programme to replace Music & Movement --- all ideas to be considered.

St. Andrew's Rakaia



Tuesday 9th June

10:30 am Rakaia Fit Kids | At St. Andrew's Hall, led by Miranda, supported by Dorothy.

A new musical activity has been arranged. Welcome to all pre-school children.

A time for friendship for mums, grandparents, and children.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are EXCITED! To confirm our parish service commences on this Sunday at 10.30 at St John Methven.

Please note there will be NO shared lunch or morning tea following service.

We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Parish Council

[Keeping 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/>

Video service and podcast with Rev Arii and Tai

Sunday Services for June

7 th	10:00 am	St. Mark's Rakaia	Revs Michael & Mary-Jo Holdaway
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Arii Taimataora
14 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia Spirituality and Prayer during Covid 19	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Arii Taimataora
21 st	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Arii Taimataora
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Neville Burns
28 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:00 am	Trinity Mayfield	Rev. Arii Taimataora
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Tai Taimataora

From the Moderator

Our present helper

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18)

The journey goes on. Life is to be lived moving forward, no matter what we are experiencing today. The future is not promised to anyone. No one knows what lies ahead. When 2020 dawned, we were not aware of the coronavirus, the lockdown, or the impact it would have on the whole world. Now, we pause and in union, utter "Wow". But still, life goes on.

Our Lord Jesus' words: "that we will not be orphans. And that He will come to us". The Holy Spirit is ever present with you and I, and with all the world. We are never alone and desolate. We will never be orphans, parentless, or be apart from God. Call out to your Abba, our Parent, our Father/Mother, our God. We will always know and experience the love of God - yesterday, today, and tomorrow. And, we all cry out together: "Hallelujah", "Amen", "Praise the Lord".

Well done everyone in our Presbyterian family. The Government, our Prime Minister and medical experts have guided us well. As a nation, our future is bright compared to so many others around the world.

Please keep the faith, be steady and sure of the course for the Church. We yearn to be together for fellowship, for worship, and yearn to be kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face). Many had the chance this weekend as some churches re-opened their doors. Please do not take the lives of our people lightly. Everything normal is so fragile and vulnerable right now.

The worship of God does not stop, or slow down, nor is it only in Church buildings. Remember Jesus' words for us, which offer promise. That promise is true and real. We testify of its reality.

Blessings
Fakaofu