



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020



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## **God's Strength given to us**

Ephesians 6: 10

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power."

The dictionary gives several definitions of the words "**strong**" and "**strength**" that is, physical vigorous, muscle power or, mental toughness, firmness, or great moral power.

Some people like to test their limit of strength by doing things to their body like exercises, running, gym work and other. Some find strength in doing mind exercises that is self-meditation and other. In most scenarios we find strength within ourselves to do things or to get things done that sometimes when it doesn't go the way we planned, makes us feel like a failure, or that we are not good enough can really make us feel so unworthy. Sometimes, we use all our strength and power that we are totally exhausted that we have nothing else to give. Sometimes, relying on our own strength and power can be dangerous because we don't let others help us and close ourselves off to others who might have a better way of doing things.

Being "strong" is not looking to yourself to do or for everything to be done, it is to look to others or considering help from others in situations we know will be tough to do alone.

Ephesians 6:10 is a take on spiritual strength. We all need spiritual strength and guidance in our lives for our walk of faith. We tend to go off on our own thinking that we can do faith without seeking God daily to strengthen us. It is a bit like daily exercise at the gym. If we stop going to the gym, we begin to lose muscle strength slowly and become weak. Ephesians is encouraging us to find strength in God whose power is far greater than our own for any situation we face that we feel we can't overcome.

Philippians 4: 13

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

If you feel that you don't have the strength to carry or want to give up, the words of Philippians is for you today. You might ask, "well how do I know that God's strength is real? And will he help me?" the only way to know, is to ask God yourself.

Pray and ask him and he will reveal the answer to you.

***"Be strong in Lord and in the strength of his power."***

## **Alpine Presbytery Gathering**

Registration is now open (Closing 6<sup>th</sup> September) for the Gathering, which is to be held at The Village, Bryndwr, 11th & 12th September. Go to: <https://forms.gle/5wfRGs8Sa3sCY6dB6>, or you can also find the form on our website, on the Events page.

The Gathering is a chance for us to meet people from around our Presbytery and experience key learning and connecting time together. All ordained ministers and Presbytery Elders are encouraged to attend, but everyone is welcome!

**The pre-Gathering event this time is the Rural Ministries get together:** Stop for a moment and ask yourself what sort of ministry do you work in. Is it urban or rural? Rural parishes usually have a unique style and flavour compared to urban parishes. The issues they face can be very different, and the way in which they organise their parish life is often a response to the cycles of rural life and the community as a whole. We aim to gather rural ministry people together to encourage and challenge each other to be the very best that God wants us to be, where God has planted us. At times this might be physical but at other times it would be electronically. It would be a place to share ideas, get advice and develop resources for the mission.

So we invite those that wish to begin a journey of discovery together to meet over a BYO lunch from 12.30pm - 2.30pm to explore how we can encourage and support each other where God has planted us.

Draft outline of the Gathering

Friday 11th: \* 12.30pm – 2.30pm Rural/small town ministries get-together \* 3pm Afternoon tea \* 3.30pm Welcome, devotions, introductions, commissioning of Martin Stewart as EO. Presentation and discussion around Strategic Framework \* 5.30pm byo drinks (with nibbles provided) \* 6pm Sit down dinner and celebration of Barry Ayer's ministry \* 8pm - finish

Saturday 12th: \* 9am Worship, including changeover of Moderator \* Comings and Goings – inductions and retirements \* Presentation of Have a Go (including a video from Whakatu), \* Morning Tea \* 11am Speaker/Interaction – Donald Scott \* 12.30pm Lunch

\* 1.15pm TELT review discussion \* Any other business.



The Lane, or Walkway, or Country Road or the Bike Trail  
 Little country lane, We have walked your ways again.  
 Where each bend follows the twisty creek  
 And birds in the trees play hide and seek  
 Whatever the season, though chills increase,  
 here in this lane is always peace.  
 Every creature here lives free. And life is how it's meant to be.  
 Here, God gives food for every need, Nut and berry, leaf, and seed.  
 Duck and swan gently glide "Neath shadows at the waterside.  
 Some days, fierce winds race the plain, To cut like flint along the lane.  
 Sometimes there is frost and snow, yet still, in spring the woodlands grow.  
 When summer comes, with longer day, the butterflies come out to play.  
 The songs of birds and hum of bees, The rustling of soft summer trees.  
 And as we walk there, Heaven seems near,  
 away from the world, time ceases here  
 We find God's gentle peace again In the beauty of a country lane.  
 - Enid Pearson.

**Notices**

*\*All Annual Reports are due in by the 12th September 2020. Please send in as it is important that we have them on time.  
 All reports can be sent to Miranda. Email: Plainsoffice@gmail.com*

**St. Andrew's Rakaia**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

11:30 am | Friendship Gathering | At St. Andrew's Hall | Morning Speakers : "What's new in the Rakaia Library" Pauline and Fay  
 Dinner for all followed by with an update from St John's by the 2 John's.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | with Miranda A time for friendship, fun, and support. Welcome to all pre-school children.  
 1:00 pm | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Plants 4 U @ Rakaia | Still in the plans, while being aware of Covid. Lots of bargains throughout the morning. Plants, white elephant, produce, jams plus baking. All morning fair starting at 9 am

\*Community Outreach Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September, Dorothy while working in the Rakaia school allotment, was able to give to several children a succulent potted plant, gifted by Millwood Nursery. More to come. Thanks

\*Cafe Church. Thank you to the Parish Folk who ventured to St Andrew's 30<sup>th</sup> August, very much appreciated. Good Worship and Fellowship time.

\*Church Service at St. Mark's Rakaia | 6<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00 am

**St. John's Methven**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September | Thanksgiving Service | There will be shared lunch, if possible please bring a plate.

This Sunday at combined parish service the theme is 'Thanksgiving'. There will be an open time during the service for people to express what they are Thankful for, share testimonies of God's goodness in their lives. This is the time where we share our journey of faith with one another. I invite and encourage us to participate.

*\* Please remember to tick the Register or use the Covid Tracing app at St John's while we remain at Level 2*

**Sunday Services**

6 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	10:30 am	St. John's Methven Thanksgiving Service	Rev. Arii (Communion) Shared Lunch *Bring plate*
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	9:30 am 10:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow Rev. Arii

Gracious God,

Help us when our weakness when we don't know what to say or do. Strengthen our hope and faith in you when we doubt your love, your hope, your truth, your Son Jesus Christ. Renew our love and relationship with you this day.

Abba Father,

Help us in your wisdom as we draw near to the election of our nation. Show us the direction that we should go and be vigilant of the work of the devil who seeks to kill and destroy every nation who seeks to serve you. Teach us to be prudent to search your truth and rely on your Holy Spirit and strength to choose the right governing body for our way forward in this corrupt world. Be ever before us Loving God and shine your light upon us, Amen.

