



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

6TH DECEMBER 2020



STAY CONNECTED WITH US! | [FACEBOOK.COM/PLAINSPRESBYTERIANPARISH](https://www.facebook.com/plainspresbyterianparish) | [PLAINSPRESBYTERIAN.CO.NZ](https://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz)

MODERATOR'S ADVENT MESSAGE 2020

Prepare Yourself

Advent is the season of preparation; when Christians get ready, focus, and plan in anticipation for Christmas. This year may be very different from any other Christmas due to Covid-19. Preparation is the keyword.

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, this year 29 November. We, the Church, recall our hopes and expectancy in the comings of Christ - past, present, and future. Christmas will always be Christmas. That magical day when we celebrate the Baby of Bethlehem.

Whether it be in the snow of the Northern Hemisphere or be in the warm summer of the Southern hemisphere, it is a wonderful season of hope, love, peace, and joy. Let's be prepared in mind, heart, and attitude. Let's be prepared for whatever coronavirus restrictions we may face.

This is a wonderful season for each one of us to strive to clear the deck. Remove any unnecessary baggage that has accumulated over the year. Prepare yourself for the baby of Christmas, Jesus.

Fakaofu

Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Peace Advent Two (December 8)

I just lost my husband and home due to conflict
Jenty knows what it is like to be hungry and afraid. Conflict has rippled through her home in South Sudan since it was founded in 2011. This time she fled on foot with her children and Maridi a fast-growing town on one of the new country's few roads. They arrived with nothing, but the community always welcomes people displaced by the conflict. She is proud of her garden and the corn that she has learnt to grow. Food grows well here. Let us pray that peace will take root in South Sudan.

We are hungry for peace.



Christian World Service [Christmasappeal.org.nz](https://www.christmasappeal.org.nz)



St. Andrew's Rakaia Tree at St. Mark's in Rakaia was decorated this week by some little helpers.

This Sunday 6th December, service at 10:00 am at *St. Mark's in Rakaia* with Rev Michael Holdaway. Blessing the Christmas Trees





Stir Up Sunday at St. John's Methven

On Sunday, 29th November, we had a great gathering on 'Stir up Sunday'. A big thank you to Dorothy and the Worship Team for organising our worship and to Isobel and her helpers for mixing the cake ingredients.

The congregational singing was fantastic, and the Fijian Choir were inspirational.

Thank you everyone who took part and a special thankyou to the team who helped with clean up and in the kitchen – Many hands made light work, and your help was greatly appreciated. – Joan Wright

Message from Annette: Cafe service at Methven was well received. Thanks to Dorothy for her work at putting it together and presenting. Special thanks to the lovely choir from Rakaia for their beautiful carols.

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 8th December

11:30 am | Rakaia Friendship Christmas Gathering

Held at Salmon Tales, and over to St. Andrew's at 1:30pm for Entertainment.

On 8/12 -- Christmas Message to the Rakaia, Chertsey and Dorie Schools with Marty and Al. Support by Plains Parish. Marty will also be with us at St. Andrew's for our Christmas Eve Service held at 7:00 pm

Wednesday 9th December

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.

Friday 18th December

4:30 pm – 7:30 pm | **IT'S CHRISTMAS** | Come and Join us @ St Andrew's Rakaia.

Crafts, baking, cookie decorating. Free community meal for all at 6:00 pm. Christmas music with the All Nations Band at 6:45. Welcome to ALL. A time of friendship and the Joy of Christmas. For information contact Dorothy or Miranda.

St. John's Methven

St John's Focus Group | We had our last meeting for the year on Tuesday. A reminder that there will not be lunch following worship this Sunday 6th. Jayne reported on proposed Brick / Lego Club which will commence in February next year. The Garden gnomes have been at work! It's proposed that a rock garden will replace the bushes that have been removed from in front of the heat pump unit. Lyn's music pupils have their end of year concert on Thursday 2nd December at 7pm They will be joined by Wayne Pannett's pupils and the Ladies Choir. Our best wishes to Beverley Anderson who is in Ashburton hospital. Get well soon.

December Sunday Services

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|---------------------|---|
| 6 th | 10:30 am | St. John's Methven | Rev. Arii; Parish Service. Communion |
| 13 th | 9:30 am | St. Andrew's Rakaia | Rev. John Titlow |
| | 10:30 am | St. John's Methven | Rev. Arii |

To view all services for December, visit our [website](#).

A Prayer for the Christmas Tree

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colourful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree to be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Lovely Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen

-Author unknown www.southernliving.com/Christmas/Christmas-prayer

