



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

21ST FEBRUARY 2021



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Encourage One Another

Early one morning I was passing a field of sheep near my house. It had been a bitterly cold night, and the sheep were huddled close together in a corner of the field, obviously seeking to find a measure of protection and warmth from one another. I thought how sensible of them this was!

In these dark and difficult days, as God's "sheep" we need to stick together, to find comfort and strength from one another. Even though we are not able to meet physically because of Covid restrictions, there are now so many ways in which we can communicate instantly with one another – through phone calls, both video and audio, messaging apps, emails and Zoom gatherings. What an encouragement this can be!



Today's verse exhorts us to consider how we may spur one another on and encourage each other. I know how important timely words have been for me on occasions, when the Lord has prompted someone to bring encouragement just when I needed it. We can all be used in this way for one another. Proverbs 25:11 says that: "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Our words can build up and bring life (Proverbs 18:21). And Proverbs 16:24 tells us that: "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones".

Instead of waiting for someone to call you, why not ask the Lord to show you today who needs to hear a word of encouragement from you? You could start to pray for that person and ask God to give you a particular word for them. In that way, we can be an important part of Jesus's body here, bringing warmth and comfort to one another, like those sheep in the field on a cold night!

- Jill Lyon Taylor *Seeds of the Kingdom*

**Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV**

Guess Where You're Going; A reflection on the bible reading Matthew 4; 11 - 22. by William H. Willimon. Theme; Light has shown into our darkness. It is a welcoming, inviting sort of light - Christ, the light of the world. This "light" not only shines into our world but also invites us to come toward the light. This light must not only be seen, acknowledged, but also followed. Thus Jesus, the "light of life", calls us to follow him, to be his disciples, to serve him wherever we are, in all that we do. We are gathered in church as those who have been called. Guess where you're going?

Reflection; One of the things that fascinates me about this account of calling is that there is no hint of any prior encounters with Jesus. The disciples were not "searching for something". They were not on a journey toward greater fulfillment in life. They were simply there doing what they always had done. Then Jesus calls them, reaches towards them, and demands that they walk with him on his journey. In promising them that they will be "fishers of people," In the history of scripture and the church, the fishing image for evangelism and mission did not prove to be as enduringly attractive as the shepherd image. Still, the thing that impresses us is not what the disciples did after this call, but rather the sudden, intrusive, unprepared for call of Christ. Today we encounter one of the most strange, most beloved, most challenging aspects of the Christ. Jesus is the one who calls us and says, in effect. "Guess where you're going?"

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 23rd February

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | 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..

St Andrew's Grocery box in the church foyer. Donations welcomed, thankyou.

St John's Methven

Tuesday 23rd February

2:30 pm | Parish Governance Meeting

Congratulations to Sam Cuttle - a great effort in last week's Coast to Coast!

Envelope System: a very big thank you to Valerie Glass who has handled the Envelope System for St John's for a number of years. We are very grateful for Valerie's contribution to the life and work of our congregation. Unfortunately, Valerie is unable to carry on this task and we would be grateful to anyone who could offer to take over the recording and receipting of envelope donations. Any Enquiries in the meantime to Joan Wright. Thanks also to Jayne Clark and her helpers for all the work they are putting into the Lego Club venture on Fridays after school.

Please keep in our prayers our church leaders, those who are unwell, those in Care and those who are anxious in these COVID times

- *St John's Focus Group*

Note that Aarii will be away from the 18th Feb – 4th March.

February Services			
21 st	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	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	Pastor Paul Eden
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow (TBC)



Lord, I am sorry if I have been focusing too much on my own needs at this time. Please show me if there is someone I can encourage today. Please show me how to pray for them, and please give me a word to encourage them and build them up. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.

- Jill Lyon Taylor Seeds of the Kingdom