



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

21ST MARCH 2021



Stay Connected with us! | [Facebook.com/PlainsPresbyterianParish](https://www.facebook.com/PlainsPresbyterianParish) | [PlainsPresbyterian.co.nz](https://www.PlainsPresbyterian.co.nz)

Psalm 107 (NIV):

26 They mounted up to the heavens
and went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.
27 They reeled and staggered like
drunkards; they were at their wits' end.



Every seasoned sailor experiences storms at sea. In rolling darkness, their ship sways, and shudders by the strength of the wave. As a Navy chaplain, I've been thrown from my rack to the deck by the force of the storm. I've served alongside sailors unable to sleep because we were overwhelmed by uncontrollable circumstances.

Throughout the past two centuries, the RCA has sent chaplains to sea. The chaplains bring comforting words of the Bible to fearful sailors. Beyond words, they bring the incarnational presence of Jesus among those in the storm. When the waves are strongest, chaplains remind sailors that Jesus is even stronger. They remind mariners who are scared and stressed that they aren't the first to fight against the storm. Chaplains retell the story of a group of first-century fishermen, wet and wind-burned, caught in a terrifying squall on the Sea of Galilee. These seasoned sailors panic. They cry out to Jesus. Like the calm eye of a savage hurricane, Jesus brings stillness because, no matter the circumstance, he abides with his father.

You may not be at sea, but you may be reeling from waves beyond your control. Are you sinking in frustration, anxiety, fear, depression, or anger? Whatever your storm, call upon the comforter, the Holy Spirit, who will bring the presence and peace of Jesus to your anxious, fearful, and frantic circumstance. God promises to fill your cloudy sky with his bright moonbeams shining against the wave of your stormy sea.

Prayer: Lord, save us in the storms of life and remind us of your promise to never abandon ship: "I will never leave you or forsake you." Amen.

- By Alan T. "Blues" Baker Faithward

God doesn't change.

When you fully trust in God, you know that God's love will never fail you. Nothing can separate you from God's love. Circumstances may sometimes cause you to feel forsaken, but you never are. You may temporarily fail to enjoy the presence and love of God because of your hurts and fears, but God's love is still there! Circumstances don't change the reality of God's presence and love, even though you may change in your awareness of them. God remains lovingly faithful, and faithfully loving, God doesn't change!

For a bible reflection read Romans 8; 35-39



Hobson Family; Prayers and love go out to Elma and the family as they mourn the loss of George. Funeral Thursday 18th at the Rakaia Community Centre. Rev. Neville Burns led the service. George, a life well lived, God's Blessings to all.

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 23rd March

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. John's Methven

Tuesday 23rd March

2:30 pm | Parish Governance Meeting

Alpine Gathering @ St David's Church, Ashburton 19-21 March. Alpine Presbytery Gathering commences Friday afternoon, all day Saturday, concluding with the church service on Sunday. Heather and Dorothy are attending on Saturday.

Worship Services

21 st Mar	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Arie
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Neville Burns
	9:30 am	St. David's Ashburton	Alpine Presbytery Service
28 th Mar	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:00 am	Staveley / combined with St. John's	Rev. Arie
2 nd Apr	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Arie Combined churches
	9:30 am	Walk of Witness with combined churches of Methven commences @ Catholic Church	
4 th Apr	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia Easter Sunday	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven Easter Sunday	Rev. Arie

Lord of Light (a Lenten Prayer)

Lord of light, come shine your truth upon my life in this season of lent. Light into the dark corners of disillusionment, where I hide beneath the comforts of food and drink. Light up my fears and worries I seek to quell with control and routine. Light within the shadowed areas of hurt that cast shades of resentment and unforgiveness in me. Light bright across my thoughts, seep into my heart and come awaken my hope. May your eternal light reveal heavens beautiful promises and bring a peace that surpasses understanding. Amen

