



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

28TH MARCH 2021



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Psalm 150:

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!

² Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³ Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!

⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!



Praise the LORD! Where? “... in his sanctuary.” Not in a bounded place, but wherever we experience God in life—as we gaze from our own yards into the heavens; as we walk barefoot along the shore of a lake; as we listen to a choir from pews or concert hall seats; as we pray in the solitude of our homes or sing in a congregation of worshipers. We praise God whenever and wherever our hearts are inspired to do so.

Praise the LORD! Why? “... for his mighty deeds, according to his surpassing greatness!” Praise the Lord for the rain, which nourishes the earth; for the wonder of a sunrise; for the cry of a newborn child; for the inquisitiveness of young children; for healing bodies through the medical community; for comforting hearts as the Lord works through ministers, priests, counselors, and friends.

Praise the LORD! How? With a diversity of instruments! I’ve employed most of them: a trumpet graced my ordination service. And though 40 years have passed since then, I can still hear the melody of the oboe during productions of “Amahl and the Night Visitors” by the first church I served. Now, at the assisted living residences where I conduct worship, we are blessed regularly with harp and piano accompaniment, and frequently we welcome a cellist when he is home from college. I distribute tambourines on occasion to enliven our singing. Liturgical dancers have engaged worshipers. And I, myself, have clashed cymbals during the singing of “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!” (Praising God with a lute, however, remains on my bucket list!)

Praise the LORD! Who? Everything that breathes is to praise God! Breath is a sign of spirit, of life. Let’s all take note of the goodness of God in our lives today. Let’s be instruments, ourselves, and praise the LORD!

Prayer: Give us pause, today, O God, to breathe in and out, to look, to listen, and so to notice and celebrate your goodness. Move us to applause, to song, to prayer, to smiles, to words and acts of gratitude, which praise you with our whole selves. Amen.

By Kathy Jo Blaske | Faithward

The Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. John 12; 12- 17

The next day the large crowd that had come to the Passover Festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So, they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!" Jesus found a donkey and rode on it, just as the scripture says. " Do not be afraid, city of Zion ! Here comes your king, riding on a young donkey," His disciples did not understand this at the time; but when Jesus had been raised to glory, they remembered that the scripture said this about him and that they had done this for him.

A message from the book "Let your Light Shine Through" by Phillip Garside.

This Sunday is known as Palm Sunday (28th March) and as Passion Sunday. In contrast to the Like reading about the entry into Jerusalem where there is more detail, John gives a much shorter account. Jesus was coming, they took palm branches and waved them in greeting. Jesus just finds a donkey and sits on it. The disciples later remember the old prophecy about the daughter of Zion coming sitting on a donkey. The four gospels give us four viewpoints and therefore a more rounded, balanced picture of Jesus' story and his message - The Good News of God's Love for us and his vision of the Kingdom that will come.

The people were still full of hope that Jesus was going to smash the Romans and fix society's ills, so they were excited and full of joy. Did Jesus know how hard this last week would be? Did he really expect to die/ Did he expect the struggles, the torture, the trials and travails, the agony, the betrayal? Somewhere in this week Jesus went through a process from celebration to struggle to transformation, from prophet and social revolutionary to victim, then to victor. From a human plane to a divine plane. From giving his supporters hope, to despair, to hope again.

As you eat your hot cross bun later next week, think about the cross on top of the bun. Celebrate a little communion - the bread of life- as you do. And like the disciples after the crucifixion, remember the story of passion week and celebrate the Good News that has transformed us and will keep transforming us for the rest of our lives. Amen

This Sunday at St Andrew's we will share in Jesus's entry into Jerusalem with a church parade.

Let us sing "Give me joy in my Heart"

Palm Sunday Call to Worship.

Do not be afraid, Jesus is coming!. Jesus is coming to parties where people celebrate, Jesus is coming to hillsides where people listen. Jesus is coming to sickrooms where people suffer. Jesus is coming to an occupied territory where people long to be free. Today we join with crowds cheering for the heir of David on the road to Jerusalem. Our hearts cry, "Hosanna" as we meet Jesus in worship today. "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord"



St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 30th 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..

This past Thursday 25th March, Marty, and Al were on a mission. Visiting the Rakaia, Chertsey, Doris, and Lauriston Schools with an Easter programme. I supported the Rakaia school, a great message was given, lots of interaction, singing, Zonk game, the bible Easter story and Pierre the puppet detective talking about investigating the Hot Cross Bun, the "Significance" of the ingredients. A great programme, thankyou Marty, and Al. - Dorothy.

St. John's Methven

NO Service at Methven next Sunday 28th. Worship at Staveley at 10:00 am

Good Friday 2nd April; Churches of Methven Walk of Witness leaving from Lady of the Snows Catholic Church at 9:30 am. We carry the Cross through Methven and finish our journey at St John's with a Good Friday Ecumenical Worship led by Rev. Neville Burns at 10:00 am

Easter Sunday 4th April; *Parish Worship at St John's 10.30 am*. NO Shared Lunch to follow our Service.

Focus Group meets on Tuesday 6th April at 7:30 pm in the Lounge.

Worship Services

28 th Mar	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:00 am	Staveley / combined with St. John's	Rev. Aarii
2 nd Apr	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia Combined churches	Rev. Aarii
	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. Aarii



A Prayer for Palm Sunday.

Loving God, Give us joy in our hearts as we shout Hosanna welcoming Jesus our King with palms, celebrating all that we hope for as the Easter story unfolds. Then, as the journey of Jesus turns towards Good Friday, help us to know that you are with us when celebration turns to sadness. Give us faith we need to follow you on the way of the cross that leads to life. Amen