



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

EASTER SUNDAY



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## Jesus at Large

Scripture Reading — Mark 15:40-16:8

**“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.” . . .**

They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. — Mark 16:6,8

Some women watched from a distance as Jesus died on the cross. They had followed him for years and had “cared for his needs.” They loved him. They also saw Joseph take down Jesus’ body and wrap it in linen. They followed and saw Joseph lay Jesus in a tomb and then roll a stone across the entrance.

After the Sabbath they came back as soon as possible. They would care for him in death as they had in life. They were so intent they almost forgot about the stone blocking the tomb.

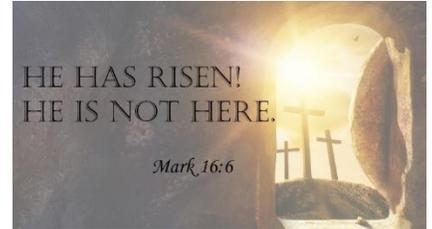
But when they arrived, they saw that the stone had been moved—and someone was in the tomb! “Don’t be alarmed,” said a young man dressed in white (an angel), but they had little time to be afraid of him. Jesus was missing! More accurately, Jesus had escaped.

The women did what anyone else would do in a tomb where a dead body had gotten up and walked away—they ran!

Every time we think we have Jesus figured out, Mark throws in a twist. That’s because Jesus never follows our rules. He’s powerful and unpredictable—and that’s unsettling to the way we would like to live. That’s why the authorities killed him. But that didn’t stop him either—then or now. Jesus is alive, and he could turn up at any moment, anywhere, and turn our world upside down.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, I have to admit there are times when you scare me. You change all of the things that need to change, and I’m scared to let some things go. Please be gentle and gracious as you change me. Amen.

- Scott DeVries



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April | Good Friday Selected Reading; John 18:1 - 19:42; The Good Friday gospel is John's story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion.

The events of Good Friday reveal humanity at its worst and God at God's best. On Good Friday, we see vividly and dramatically the depths of human sin and rebellion against God, even to the point of our crucifying the Son of God who took on our flesh. Yet our worst act against God became God's greatest act on our behalf. And thus we call this Friday good.

**Prayer;** Lord Jesus, who for our sakes was born among us, took on our flesh, lived our life, this fateful Friday shows the length you would go to, to love us. You were willing, not only to teach us, to be an example to us, to guide us, but also to die for us. Words fail us on the day, eternal word of God. There is no word we can speak but thanks. No response except worship. Amen.



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April | Easter Sunday Selected Reading; Mark 16; 1 - 8. Although the women have come to the cemetery early in the morning expecting to find the body of Jesus entombed there, a young man in white proclaims to them, "Jesus is not here! He has gone before you to Galilee.

Jesus is raised from the dead and returns to Galilee, toward the out-of-the-way place that was the site for most of his ministry. When Jesus was raised, he went back home. If we would meet the resurrected Christ that is where we most likely will meet him: at home, amid the ordinary, everyday tasks of life, in a place like Galilee.

Resources from William H. Willimon.



Draw us Forth.

Draw us forth, God of all creation, Draw us forward and away from limited certainty, into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us. Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience the resurrection anew, with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter.

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### St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

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

Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April; Walk of Witness: following the cross, from St Ita's, via St Mark's to St Andrew's. Welcome to the journey or joining in along the way commencing at St Ita's at 9.00am. For Information; contact Dorothy 3027595.

### Staveley

Report from Staveley Church --- Was lovely to welcome many from Methven for our Palm/Passion Sunday service.

Rev Aarii lead a lovely service of contemplation on the journey as told by Mark's gospel

read by members of the congregation, followed by morning tea in the garden and lots of chat.

We have been struggling with cluster flies so have fumigated the church today.

Thanks also to Spiderban for spraying for spiders as a community service.

### St. John's Methven

Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> April; *Parish Worship at St John's 10.30 am*. NO Shared Lunch to follow our Service.

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

### Family leaving.

It is sad to hear that one of our Fijian families will be moving to Wellington soon due to new work.

Lai, Lizipisi and their five children will be busy and stressed with all the planning and packing to move. Lai will be going ahead of the family to settle, start work and to look for a house as well before his family joins him.

At Easter Sunday combine service we will be doing a gift collection to support them.

If you would like to contribute to the collection but you will be away in the weekend please make contact with Gill James or Denis Brown.



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### Worship Services

2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	9:00 am	Rakaia   Walk of witness commences @ St. Itas finishing at St. Andrew's with a Good Friday Service	
	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia   Combined churches	Rev. Aarii
	9:30 am	Methven   Walk of Witness commences @ Catholic Church Finishing the walk at St. John's Methven with Worship	
	10:00 am	St. John's Methven Good Friday Ecumenical Worship	Rev. Neville Burns
4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia   Easter Sunday	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven   Easter Sunday	Rev. Aarii

### Easter Blessing

Today, while you celebrate Easter, as you contemplate the mystery and meaning of Resurrection, today as you enjoy Easter treats like hot-cross buns, marsh-mellow eggs, and hollow chocolate bunnies, remember that Easter reveals God's aroha through the Lord's abounding grace and sacrificial servant-hood. May the Servant God, the Saviour God, the God who loves you beyond measure, bless you and yours this holy day and guide you ever after. Amen

By Joy Kingsbury - Aitken

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter.

