



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

15TH AUGUST 2021



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"The Living Bread that came down from Heaven"

Letting Go

Be still, and know that I am God! I will be praised among the nations; I will be praised in the earth.

Psalms 46:10, NIV

'Be still and know that I am God' is part of a scripture that we so easily quote to focus someone on God in times of turmoil. But I realised that to let go and trust God is hard when you feel everything is falling apart and you have no control of the situation. I experienced that during a difficult season with one of our children. I honestly thought that, if I raised my children according to God's Word and His ways, things would work out well. But I was not taking the worldly influence into account.

For me it was hard to trust and stand back when I saw the destruction taking place in his life. I just wanted to dive in and sort everything out, but nothing that I said or did seemed to be right. No direction was wanted and called for, and it even felt that whatever I prayed, was not effective.

In the midst of the turmoil I came to the end of myself and called out to the Lord, asking, "Where are You, Lord? What have I done wrong, and what more could I do and pray? What am I missing?" It was like saying, God, please give me a method. But the answer did not lie in a self help method. God spoke to my heart and said, "Don't focus on a recipe. Focus on Me, the Maker of the ingredients of the recipe".

By choosing to turn my focus away from the issue at hand, and look to God, He could take over and work things out for the good of all. I shifted my focus from the circumstances and my child towards God. I stopped complaining and started to love more, giving my child unconditional love. I had to learn to hold my tongue and not say a word, just to love and trust.

Was it just a once-off choice. No way! I had to choose repeatedly, on a daily, even hourly basis to speak out aloud, "I trust You, Lord, even if I don't understand. Here is my child. You know best, and You know the plans You have for him." I had to choose to trust in God and not in what I saw.

And yes, the great news is He did come through for us. God was the one that opened my child's eyes. He kept on drawing my child with cords of love towards Him. This beloved child met His Saviour. Not only did he hear about the Saviour through us and others. He chose Him for himself. It was not a religion any more, but a relationship. He is sold out to his Heavenly Father, running with Him and seeking His face for every choice he makes. People close to him can really testify that there was a change of heart. "Surely God is good and faithful." And whether we want to hear it or not, we must sometimes let go and trust God for He is the God who sees. He sees the bigger picture. - Lorraine Fourie | [Seeds of the Kingdom](#)

AGM

**Our Parish AGM will be held on Sunday
26th September after a parish service
at St. Andrew's Rakaia at 10:30 am**

***Note:** Would those responsible for providing their groups Annual Report to the Parish please have this to *Joan (jmacw5442@gmail.com)* or *Elsa (esurya@hotmail.com)* by the 16th August at the latest.

Thank You

ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CNR SOUTH BELT & JACKSON STREET, METHVEN

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 20TH AUGUST AT 7:30PM



Teams of 5 or 6

Adults \$5 School Children \$3

Questions for all the family.

No great prizes but great fun for all! Supper provided.

For further information contact

Joan Wright 3028668 or Graham Marr 3028682

Who was Jesus reflecting on this Sunday's August 15th Lectionary Reading. John 6; 51 - 58. What are we to make of Jesus? Sometimes he acts and speaks in ways that are strange and even disturbing. In an attempt to make sense of Jesus, we dig into the past, asking, Who was Jesus? Where did he come from? What did he actually do and say? Yet not content to be an historical figure, he reaches out from the past, he speaks to us, demands a relationship with us, and we are moved from relegating him to the past to following Jesus in the present. And then we become more concerned with who Jesus is rather than who Jesus was.

The words of this well-known song "Who is this man" gives us many examples of why Jesus tells us he is the bread that has come down from heaven. He is the bread that will satisfy all our longings. We are to feed on him, and we will be satisfied forever.

Who is this man, who gathered people to him, and touched their lives along each dusty way. Who spoke to all, with passion and with peacefulness, and valued all their ordinary days? Who is this man, who at the long day's ending, would draw apart to wait on God and prayer, and in that mystery that knows no ending, would find God's wisdom, and know God's way. Who is this man, who gave women dignity, in partnership of worth and equal grace. Who listened to the stories that they told him, and honoured each whatever was their place. Who let them choose to come and join his company and learned with them God's love for every race. Who showed to each the courage of their nature, to care and tend each lonely and each suffering face.

Who is this man, who spoke to men of gentleness and showed them all the children at his side. Who taught of love and justice for all people and took a towel and washed away their pride. In him they saw the strength of truth and mercy and how he trusted God to be his guide. Knew how he led them through misunderstanding, and forgave them when they ran away to hide. Who is this man, who calls us now to follow, a shadow presence asking us to be. Companions of the way through this life's journey. To life in truth, to set our tired world free. So let us find each other now in partnership, with ears to hear and eyes awake to see. That we might grow in grace and understanding and walk beside that man who comes from Galilee. {Tune Danny Boy}

Making the Gospel Relevant: A workshop for lay worship leaders, lay preachers, and all those involved in team ministry.

Saturday, 25th September 2021 at 9:30 am – 3:45 pm at Christchurch North Methodist Church. For more details please contact Dorothy.

St. Andrew's Rakaia This Sunday 15th August. Cafe Church in the Hall, 9.30am Morning Tea, Service 9.45am All most welcomed

Tuesday 17th August

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | A time for friendships, fun & support.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being..

2:00 pm | Mission Meeting in the lounge

Carew Sunday 15th August Service at the Carew Church at 3:00 pm with Rev. Johanna Warren. All Welcome!

Mayfield Trinity Thursday 19th August | 1:30 pm | Mission team meet

St. John's Methven

Friday 20th August St Johns Brick Club 3:15-5:00 pm on Fridays after school during the term 'Exploring God with Lego'. Contact Jayne 0274678105

Friday 20th August 7:30 pm | Family Quiz Night! Teams of 5 or 6. Adults \$5 School children \$3

For more info contact Joan Wright or Graham Marr.

Contacts for the Parish

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Administrator; Miranda Addis
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August Worship Services

Date	Time	Location	Worship Team
15 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia Café Church	Neville Burns
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Johanna Warren
	3:00 pm	Carew	Rev. Neville
22 nd	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Pastor Paul Eden
	10:00 am	Trinity Mayfield	Rev. Silvia Purdie
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	"A Man Called Peter"
29 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia Movie in the lounge	Methven
	10:00 am	St. John's @ All Saints	

Prayer

Beloved Father, thank You that You are the One who loves each one of us unconditionally and that You are in control. Forgive me for the times that I didn't trust You enough and wanted to take control of a life that You created, thinking that I could do better. Thank You, my Beloved Father, for showing me that Your heart is absolutely for us and not against us. You are the God who sees. In Jesus' name, Amen. - Lorraine Fourie | [Seeds of the Kingdom](#)