



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

25TH JULY 2021



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Spirit of God, your peace is for all, for you are at work in every heart.

Faith—Confessing Jesus Is Lord! By Harvey Kiekoover

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Every tongue [shall] acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:11

Our pastor talked about feeling the weight of ministering in our time. Political issues, social unrest, justice concerns, COVID-19, congregational needs—all these and more had become heavy to the point of being overwhelming. She spoke as a pastor, but it isn't only pastors and church leaders who know the struggle with matters that are too big for us, is it?

In a sermon, she told us about the powerful impact of a three-word sentence that a church leader used at the end of his emails. Before he “signed” his name, he would write, “Jesus is Lord!”

Our pastor experienced power and encouragement from this simple little sentence. Why? Because Jesus the Lord is the one who loves us—so much that he willingly became a servant, surrendering the glory of equality with God. And more—“he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross” for our sake! And even more—Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to rule in heaven. He is the risen, exalted, reigning Christ—the Lord to whom all authority and power in heaven and on earth have been given.

He is our risen, living, ascended, reigning Lord. And “if you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Thank you, Jesus, for being the Savior and Lord we need—powerful and strong, gentle, and loving. Amen.

Do I Have Your Attention? By Reginald Smith

Scripture Reading — John 6:16-21

They saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water. — John 6:19 —

Good teachers come up with amazing ways to get students' attention. Kindergarten teachers quiet their voices to get children to settle down. Coaches have a knack for using the right words and tactics to motivate their players to win. When Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee, that got his disciples to pay attention to who he was and what he was about! At the time, though, they might not have realized he was the best teacher they could ever have.

They had probably figured it would be an uneventful evening. The disciples were on their way to the other side of the lake while Jesus stayed back on shore to spend some time alone (John 6:15). The wind and waves, however, started getting rough, and the disciples were probably growing concerned for their safety. Then somewhere in the middle of the lake, Jesus came right out to them, walking on the water!

Now they were frightened! How do you think you would have reacted to that? Why did Jesus do that? He wanted his disciples — and us — to pay attention to him as their chief focus even when the storms of life seem to take over. His voice breaks through the rumble of water and wind and says, “It is I; don't be afraid.”

Jesus wants your undivided attention today. Are you keeping your eyes on him?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, forgive me for allowing the storms of life to distract me. I believe you are Lord over all things. Help me to trust you. Amen



Lectionary Reading for Sunday 25th July:

Jesus: The Mystery Among Us;

Theme ~ Jesus comes into our world to bring us close to God. He is the presence of God among us, opening our eyes to the reign of God, reaching toward us in love, and embracing us with reassurance.

John 6; 1 -21, Jesus feeds the hungry multitudes, transforming just a few loaves and fish into a feast. Then, before his amazed disciples, Jesus walks upon the stormy water of the raging sea.

Encountering John. This reading is a good instance of why the Gospel of John can be both the preacher's bane and blessing. Here we have two dramatic, mysterious moments in the ministry of Jesus - feeding the multitudes and walking on water - linked into a rich lesson.

Jesus is pursued by a large crowd. It is Passover, the holiest day for Israel. Jesus has gathered his disciples to teach them, but the crowds press in upon them. How are all these people to be fed.?

That evening, Jesus' disciples launch out into a boat to cross the sea. There is a storm. It is dark, and lo and behold, they see Jesus on the sea and coming near the boat, and they are terrified.

You may be afraid of your fears. Does God understand those fears? Does he really care when you are afraid? Of course He does. That's why He promises that He will never leave you. He assures you that He will never forsake you, no matter how rough the way maybe.

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Monday 26th July

1:00 pm | Garden Working Bee (If weather permits)

Tuesday 27th July

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..

St. John's Methven

Friday 30th July

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

Tuesday 3rd August

7:30 pm | Focus Group in the lounge

* Neville and Thelma still unwell, prayers for them *

Contacts for the Parish

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Sunday Services

***Please note there have been some changes**

25 th July	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Worship Team
	10:30 am	* At St. John's Methven with Staveley Combined	Pastor Paul Eden
1 st Aug.	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow
8 th Aug.	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Worship Team
15 th Aug.	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia Café Church	Worship Team
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Neville Burns



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you" Deuteronomy 31: 6