



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

29TH AUGUST 2021



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Lord, we come this day aware of your love for us and your profound care of us.

Fear No Evil

Scripture Reading — Psalm 23

I will fear no evil, for you are with me. . . . — Psalm 23:4

The picturesque language of Psalm 23 always makes me think about being outside and hiking. I remember hiking an unfamiliar trail with my wife a few years ago. It was early spring, and the trail was bordered by heavy trees on both sides. It was also very muddy, and there was no one else around. It seemed that at any moment some threat could jump out from behind any tree we passed, or from inside the abandoned mines and cabins we hiked past. I'll admit that I was scared.



The psalmist knew what it was like to follow trails like that. He no doubt drew on his experience of walking through lonely canyons or narrow valleys, ready for a wild animal or an enemy to attack. He knew what it was to be afraid. But he also knew what it was to be led by God—the good shepherd—through frightening places. God had taken care of him throughout his whole life—and even when things seemed most frightening, he knew he didn't need to be afraid because God was with him.

Our lives are filled with dark valleys—times when everything seems to be out to get us or there seems to be no comfort. During those times we need to remember that God is with us, watching over us and guiding us. He will bring us through to green pastures and will restore our souls.

Prayer: Good Shepherd, when we are walking through dark valleys, help us not to be afraid. Lead us through and restore our souls. In Jesus, Amen. - Bret Lamsma | [Today Devotional](#)

[Alpine Presbytery | The Zoom Sessions](#) In Term 2 and 3 we are hosting online Zoom workshops on a variety of topics. These sessions are open to everyone, and we are hosting them in the evenings in the hope that they will be more accessible to volunteers in all areas of ministry. Details and registration information for these sessions can be found here. [Session Two: Intercultural Church \(Wednesday 1st September 7.30pm – 8.30pm\)](#) As a Presbytery we are committed to being “a multi-ethnic Church with a bi-cultural commitment”. This requires us to discover how we are culturally wired and how we can understand the behaviours of each other. In today's increasingly diverse world, we need to develop our understanding and capability to interact in culturally diverse settings. Come along for a zoom session on explore how we can collectively begin to raise our intercultural intelligence and create spaces where we celebrate the diversity of our communities. This Zoom session will be facilitated by Rev. Christine Harding and Shireen Chua. Information on the presenters, as well as the link to register, are on their website here: <https://alpinepresbytery.org/the-zoom-sessions/> If you are unable to be there, we will be recording this session, please register in order to get the link for the recording.



Some fun for Lockdown | Here is a brain teaser whose aim is to stimulate the connections or associations between words in your temporal lobe. You will see pairs of words, and your goal is to find a third word that is

connected or associated with

both of these two words. For example, the first pair is PIANO and LOCK. The answer is KEY. The word key is connected with both the word piano and the word lock:

there are KEYS on a piano, and you use a

KEY to lock doors. Key is what is called a homograph: a word that has more than one meaning but is always spelled the same. (Answers on next page)

1. LOCK – PIANO	6. RIVER – MONEY
2. SHIP – CARD	7. BED – PAPER
3. TREE – CAR	8. ARMY – WATER
4. SCHOOL – EYE	9. TENNIS – NOISE
5. PILLOW – COURT	10. EGYPTIAN – MOTHER

The Bare Necessities

Some things are easy enough to say. The words roll off our tongues before we know it - "Don't worry, it will be alright" Our wishes are sincere and with all our hearts we want to believe it. But when we wake in the small hours with either a hospital appointment, an interview, an exam, a covid test, isolation, shopping with a mask, taking that trip to be vaccinated or other concerns the next day, we don't feel quite so confident. All the basic worries start bothering us, will it really be alright?

We could listen to the advice given by laid-back bear Baloo to the young "man-cub" Mowgli in Disney's "The Jungle Book" – **Don't** spend your time looking around, For something you want that can't be found. When you find out you can live without it and go along not thinking about it, I tell you something true - "bare necessities of life to come to you" Wise advice from a cartoon character! And sometimes that's how it seems. Out of the blue, when we least expect it, when we weren't even consciously seeking it, along comes something that turns out to be just what we needed. A kind offer of help. A generous gift. A surprise opportunity. Some encounters with a friend or stranger that gives us the encouragement to continue. We find what we need to get by. Behind these gifts there is a Giver. Behind the provision there is a gracious and generous Provider, our Father in heaven who delights in giving good gifts to his children.

This was one of Jesus's themes in his Sermon on the Mount. "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear...Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:25,34.

Think of the imagery of the 23rd Psalm. The Lord, our kind Shepherd, will lead us to good safe pastures and quiet, refreshing waters. Jesus acknowledges that in this world we will have our share of trouble and sorrow, but he will comfort us in the valley of shadow, and even prepare a table of fine food to sustain us when facing enemies! He has laid down his life for us that we might be brought safe home, eventually to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" Thus the Apostle Paul, when facing trials and even mortal danger, could write, "The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer.... with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philipians 4: 5-7. Rev. Andrew Watson}

Come as you are, that's how I love you, come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you, All will be well, just come as you are.

Answers: 1. KEY | 2. DECK | 3. TRUNK | 4. PUPIL(OR EXAM) | 5. CASE
6. BANK(OR FLOW) | 7. SHEET | 8. TANK | 9. RACKET | 10. MUMMY

St. Andrew's Rakaia Rakaia Fit Kids & Steady as you go will continue in Level 2.

St. John's Methven (Can continue during Level 2) St Johns Brick Club 3:15-5:00 pm on Fridays after school during the term 'Exploring God with Lego'. Contact Jayne 0274678105



Although the combined service at Methven with the Anglicans is cancelled, we are invited to *Zoom church with All Saint's* on Sunday. Anyone who would like to join in please

email Joan jmacw5442@gmail.com for the link.

Contacts for the Parish

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Sunday Worship Services | Please NOTE NO SERVICES DURING LEVEL 4,

CAN GATHER AGAIN UNDER LEVEL 2 Listed services will only be held during Level 2; stay connected for updates!

St. Andrew's Rakaia | *Movie in the lounge "A Man called Peter"*

Originally planned for Sunday 29th August now **POSTPONED TO A LATER SUNDAY**

29th August Worship at All Saints with St. John's Methven now **CANCELELD**

12 th Sept.	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Silvia Purdie Celebration of Spring
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Visiting team from the Baptist Church Ashburton

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are always full of mercy. Through your healing acts, you made your love known to us. You reached across boundaries and reached out to those who were desperate. Help us to come to you in our need, to reach out to you in our pain. Also, help us to bring hurting, desperate people to you so that they might also be blessed by your love. Amen