



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

12TH SEPTEMBER 2021



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Spring



Thank you for your garden, the garden of life; Help us to love and enjoy it too.

Coming out of lockdown (sort of!)

At St. Andrews this Sunday we will be reflecting on *'back to square one'*, what matters most? Where do we start as we re-plan our lives after lockdown? How do we see Jesus in this?

How was this lockdown for you? What did you miss that you could not do? Who did you miss that you could not visit? What did you do instead?

For me, this whole season of my life since I finished as the minister at Cashmere Presbyterian Church in February last year has been a long lock-down, in a way. I like to say, 'an extended sabbatical'. I have missed parish ministry, but God has used this time to do amazing things in my life, and new projects are involving others in new ways. It has taken me back to basics. What is truly important for me? What is God doing with my life? In this time I have learned how to rest. I was never very good at relaxing! A gift of lockdown (for those of us without small children anyway!) is rest, space to do less. I hope that as you come out of lockdown you don't throw yourself into too much busy-ness.

The main gift of lockdown is solitude. You may delight in solitude, or you may hate it! My husband used the space alone to do practical things in the garage, making boxes out of wood, cutting and painting metal bits for his Land Rover. But three weeks alone with his wife was about enough, before he declared himself to be the "Chairman of the Bored"! I use my solitude to write, and I have various writing projects on the go which have benefited from uninterrupted time. And now we have some freedom, and still plenty of hassles with what we are allowed to do. And still a deal of concern for those in Auckland, including our middle child who is trying to complete a Degree in performing arts at a very difficult time.

Perhaps it is our love for those, near and far, that is our 'back to square one'. I hope this week is for you a time of reconnecting with those you love, even if you can't pop in for a cup of tea. May God bless you and keep you. May God make his face to shine upon you and give you peace.

- Rev. Silvia Purdie (preacher at St. Andrew's Rakaia Sunday 12th Sept.)

The Spring has Come

AA 140, by Shirley Murray

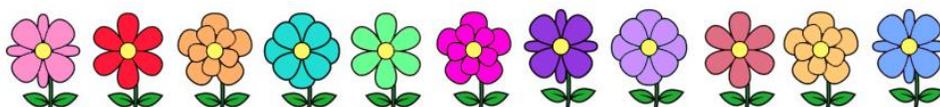
The Spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!

New light, new day,
new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day, the spring has come,
let all the Church be part of it!

The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!

New leaf, new thrust,
new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust, the sun is warm, let all God's
children play in it!

The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot, the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!



Lectionary Reading for Sunday 12th September; Mark 8; 27 - 38; Jesus asks the disciples what people are saying about who he is. Then he lays out what it means to follow him.

The Jesus who explodes into our lives from Mark's text is not what we expect, not what we're used to. Jesus is our Saviour, lowly, meek, and mild. He welcomes little children, embraces everyone, issues words of comfort in times of distress. Jesus soothes our suffering and eases our burden. He is a feel-good sort of God, adding a spice of pleasure and measure of security, affirming who we are. Surely our gentle shepherd would not add misery to what can already be a painful life! {resources by Craig Kocher}

This Sunday @ St Andrew's 9.30am Rev Silvia's message will centre around this bible reading and James 3; 13 - 18

St. John's Methven

Sunday 12th September

This Sunday service at St. John's is **cancelled**.

Friday 17th September

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

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Sunday 12th September

Spring Flower Service. Welcome to bring a posy of flowers.

Tuesday, 14th September

Rakaia Friendship Gathering **cancelled**

Wednesday 15th September

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | Welcome to all pre-school children.

A time for friendships, fun & support.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go

Contacts for the Parish

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Parish Bank Number;

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PLANTS 4 U @ RAKAIA | 2nd October 9:00 am – 1:00 pm | Donation of plants most welcomed. God, you are a gardener, and we are part of your garden. Help us honour your creation.



Sunday Worship Services

Level 2 Rules for Church this Sunday | Mask wearing, sanitizing, signing in/ scanning, 2 metre distance

12 th Sept.	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia "Spring Flowers" Service at St. John's Methven at 10:30 am is Cancelled	Rev. Silvia Purdie
19 th Sept.	9:30 am 10:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow Pastor Paul Eden
26 th Sept.	10:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia Plains Parish Service Followed by the AGM. Shared Lunch.	Rev. Johanna Warren
3 rd Oct.	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow

Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the gift of life, for calling Peter, James, John, and others. We thank you that you do not leave us alone, but continue to call us. always knowing what is the best for us, always showing us the way of life. We confess that we are but ordinary disciples with common, ordinary faith. You call us to boldness, suffering, death, and life. teach us again O Lord, the meaning of the cross and resurrection. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen