



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021



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**God, help us to appreciate your love, and give love to one another.**

The Rubbish Challenge: 10 Steps to Less Waste in 10 Months

### Current Step) September: KIDS

Bible verse | Isaiah 11:6: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid goat, the lion and the calf together, and a little child shall lead them."

Matthew 7:9: "Would anyone give your child a stone when he asks for bread?"

**'Big Idea'** | We surround our kids with plastic! They eat out of plastic bags in plastic boxes. We buy them more and more brightly coloured plastic things to play with. Imagine a God-centred, creation-based play space for kids. Isaiah's vision of God's salvation shalom on earth is of a child leading all the animals in harmony – not just plastic toy animals but real living beings – where "nothing will hurt or destroy" (v10).

Question - for reflection & discussion | Do children really need everything to be brightly coloured and individually wrapped? What values are we teaching them? What are good ways to engage with young people about environmental issues? How are they leading the church?

Action Step for September Explore with parents, children, youth & ministry leaders how to reduce plastic and rubbish. - Use natural materials for crafts - Play outside, no matter what the weather - Don't laminate - Choose natural fabrics for clothes and bedding - Buy non-toxic crayons and chalk instead of felt pens - Teach children about what happens to waste

Prayer: Our Father in heaven, thank you for our children, each one made in your image.

Nourish them as they grow in a damaged world.

May we give them good things instead of junk and feed them hope instead of anxiety.



<https://www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html>

### Alpine Presbytery

Dear Presbytery,

I write to let you know that, with regret, the August meeting of Presbytery Council accepted the resignation of Rev. Barry Ayers as Moderator of Alpine Presbytery. Barry's decision comes after considerable prayer and discernment and, despite our regret at losing his leadership in this space, we pray that he and Clare would continue to know God's peace and presence in the post-Moderator phase. As a diligent and much valued servant of our Presbytery over many years, we are enormously grateful to him and Clare for everything they have contributed to the life of Alpine Presbytery. Barry wishes to relay his appreciation to Council and the whole Presbytery for inviting him to serve as Moderator over the past year.

Barry's resignation takes effect in early October after GA this year (in whatever form that now takes). Council is presently preparing a proposal for Presbytery's endorsement of an acting Moderator. Nominations for a new Alpine Presbytery Moderator will be sought and voted on later in the year, as is our usual practice, and the new person will be inducted at the Gathering currently scheduled for March 2022.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew Nicol (Deputy Moderator)

General Assembly will deal with selected business online from 29 September and there will be a special Assembly in 2022 to pick up remaining business.

## Selected Bible Reading for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Mark 7: 24 - 37. Theme. Jesus attracted great numbers of people, who were at the end of their rope, desperate, needing compassion and love in the worst kind of way. Jesus still attracts such people. If the church would be faithful to Jesus, we must take care to be open to those in desperate need, whatever their need, whoever they are.

When today's gospel begins, Jesus has left the region of Galilee and is entering Tyre, seemingly to seek rest and seclusion. Jesus entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there [7;24] Yet his presence is immediately found out and he is pressed into service. Jesus' exchange with the Gentile woman is the first focus of the text. She comes to Jesus, begging him to do for her that which he has done for many others. Jesus' initial response to the woman was rejection, even cruel and insulting. But then at this point Jesus's compassion seems to overcome his sense of mission. He reaches out to this outsider, this Gentile, and heals the daughter. From there Jesus moves on back toward Galilee where he is encountered by another person in great need and heals him. Most of the time, Jesus comes to people, reaches out to people. Like a magnet, his love attracts the needy and the desperate. His love still does. [William H Willimon}

**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

### St. Andrew's Rakaia

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September | Spring Flower Service. Welcome to bring a posy of flowers, a time of cheer.

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September | Rakaia Friendship Gathering TBC

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September | Rakaia Fit Kids will hopefully be able to continue at 10:30 am | Steady As You Go on hold.

PLANTS 4 U @ RAKAIA | 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## Contacts for the Parish

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## \* PLEASE MAKE NOTE \* 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER NO SERVICES

September Sunday Worship Services			
12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia   "Spring Flowers"	Rev. Silvia Purdie
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven Baptist Team Worship	
19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Pastor Paul Eden
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia   Plains Parish Service Followed by the AGM. Shared Lunch.	Rev. Johanna Warren

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are always full of mercy. Through your healing acts, you make 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