

## Kia ora koutou katoa!

We are about to enter Holy Week.



### Jesus reflecting on Palm Sunday Evening

This time  
there will be no flight into Egypt.  
This donkey has too much to carry,  
and too far.

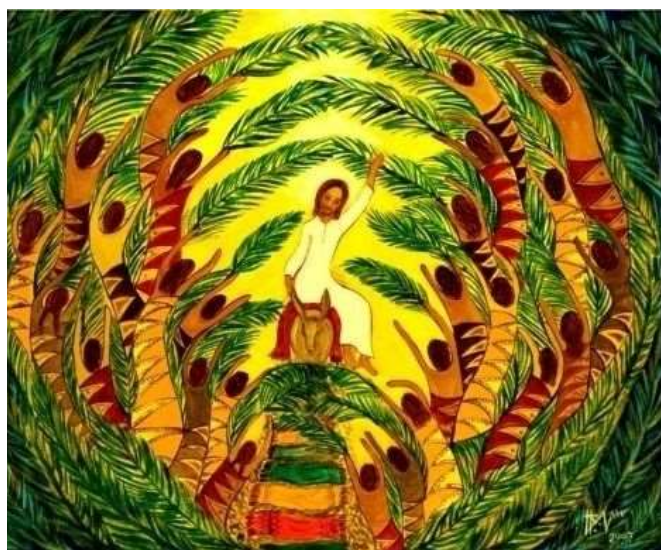
The shadows wait for me,  
around the table at Passover,  
among those in high places  
in the condemned cell,  
on the hill outside.  
Fear haunts my waking moments  
and I cannot sleep.  
Why has God forsaken me?

The crowd today is with me,  
but not for long.  
They are the powerless ones  
(the ones who matter).  
The ones who count  
are counting.

Time is running out.  
This time  
there will be no flight into Egypt.

### Psalm 31:9-16

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress;  
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,  
my soul and body with grief.  
My life is consumed by anguish  
and my years by groaning;  
my strength fails because of my affliction,[a]  
and my bones grow weak.  
Because of all my enemies,  
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors  
and an object of dread to my closest friends—  
those who see me on the street flee from *me*.  
I am forgotten as though I were dead;  
I have become like broken pottery.  
For I hear many whispering,  
“Terror on every side!”  
They conspire against me  
and plot to take my life.  
But I trust in you, Lord;  
I say, “You are my God.”  
My times are in your hands;  
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,  
from those who pursue me.  
Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your unfailing love.





# Message from the Moderator

Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

## MODERATOR'S EASTER MESSAGE:

Light will triumph...it is the nature of God.

Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion.



In New Zealand, we focus on the Easter Weekend (Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday) with Monday being a public holiday.

In another perspective, we focus on the Easter Season. This begins Easter Day and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. It is the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season, which include eight Sundays. This season celebrates the resurrection and ascension of Christ, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Easter is the main highlight in my Christian perspective. This includes the week prior to Easter, the Holy Week. It is the climax of ministry for me and my church community. Jesus came to the world because of God's love. Jesus died and rose from the tomb, defeating death and sin once and for all. Jesus ascended to heaven saying, "I will come again". Mark 13:26. Jesus had already taught, "My Father will send the Advocate, that is, the Holy Spirit, he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you". John 14:26. Easter Season concludes on the Day of Pentecost, the day remembered for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Covid-19 changed all our best laid plans last year; missing Easter 2020 was a major let down for me personally. Hence, Easter 2021 is eagerly anticipated - let's hope we get to celebrate.

Easter reminds us that there is suffering, death, rejection, betrayal, denial, disaster. Through Covid-19, many in the world have experienced these.

I do not forget the suffering caused by this disease or how fortunate our country has been when I suggest that as we journey through the Easter Season we recall and appreciate the unexpected positive experiences that have come out of Covid-19. The opportunities, light, life, hope and love experiences that we encountered and continue to encounter in this time of pandemic.

Some fortunate 'bubbles' experienced wonderful times with family and friends, working together, sharing, caring, looking out for each other. Quality time together, with a different pace of life. We reconnected or connected for the first time with neighbours, helped others, strangers, disadvantaged, poor and needy. We gathered via online devotions, Zoomed nationally and globally. The list goes on. Life goes on. Let's not forget the lessons learnt, including how to be resilient and to adjust. Let us continue to adjust to any situation in life - now and yet to come.

Life, hope, light, peace, love and faith will always triumph. It is the nature of God.

Easter is for you, for your loved ones. God is saying, "I love you, unconditionally, sacrificially, in Jesus, my beloved Son."

Blessings

Fakaofu

Right Reverend Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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**Quest Speaker:** Rev. Dr. Lynne M. Baab is joining us on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Lynne is a teacher and writer. She has written numerous books and Bible study guides. Lynne is from Seattle and is currently living in New Zealand. Lynne visited us a few years back and spoke on the gift of the Sabbath and it was a real treat!

**Remembrance Service:** A special service will be held to remember the life of Lorraine White. Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 11am Halfway Bush Church.

**Congratulations** to Sue and Robert Morey on the birth of their 8<sup>th</sup> grandchild, a girl called Neve, born last Thursday on Sue's birthday to Jenny and Philip Morey.

**He waka eke noa – We are all in this together:** Worship Services at Flagstaff Community Church will meet normally during Level 1. Please stay at home if you are unwell or if you have a compromising health issue or concern. Your health and safety is our top priority. There are a number of Tracer App Posters located in Church building or a clip board in foyer for recording names.



**Good Friday Meditation on the Cross:** Holy Name. 420 Great King Street, 7pm, Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, All Welcome. Sponsored by the Dunedin Presbyterian-Catholic Dialogue Group.

**Hospital Bed Pushing:** We are looking for a few more volunteers to help take patients from the wards to the chapel service at 10.30am. We meet at the chapel at 9.45am for instructions. If you could help please contact Nigel Hanson via 021 1639412 or email [nigelottohanson@gmail.com](mailto:nigelottohanson@gmail.com);

**Presbyterian Support Otago Update:** March is Vintage Month at our Shop on Carroll store in Dunedin, and at their online store [www.shoponcarroll.org.nz](http://www.shoponcarroll.org.nz) All the very best vintage and retro wares are available throughout March – and all profits go to support Presbyterian Support Otago's social programmes such as the Foodbank and the Buddy Programme. PSO Foodbank wishlist: Cereals, spreads, muesli bars and biscuits.

**Part time Chaplain in Dunedin:** Contract position - 15 hours per week. At Presbyterian Support Otago, the physical and spiritual wellbeing of our residents and staff is very important. Our Enliven Service is seeking the services of a visiting Chaplain at Ross Home (10 hours) and St Andrew's Care Home (5 hours) in Dunedin.

As Chaplain your role will include:

- Working with Home Managers and their teams providing pastoral and spiritual care, to support residents of all faiths, cultures and ethnicities, and their families.
- Visiting the homes weekly and maintaining a weekly roster of worship opportunities.
- Offering care and support to residents, staff and families during times of dying and death.

You are a Minister (of any faith), pastoral care worker, or other suitably qualified layperson motivated by faith and compassion, and a commitment to the dignity of older people.

For more information and full position description/draft contract please contact Margaret Pearce (Manager Ross Home) [Margaret.Pearce@psotago.org.nz](mailto:Margaret.Pearce@psotago.org.nz) , 473 0705 or Maurice Burrowes (Director Enliven Services) [Maurice.Burrowes@psotago.org.nz](mailto:Maurice.Burrowes@psotago.org.nz), 477 7115.

**Pastoral Visit:** If you would like a pastoral visit from someone from within the pastoral team or the minister please ring elder Sarah Barton 021 385905.

**Flagstaff Prayer Time:** Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Tocher Lounge. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.

**Green Fingers:** We are currently restoring our awa next to the church. This little creek is showing signs of life and is breathing again and some native birds are showing up. There are a few folks who meet for a couple of hours on a Monday and pot away at planting, trapping pests, removing, weeding, etc. Occasionally we have a project in which everyone is invited including our local school. If you want to join us ring Neil Brown 027 435 4672.

**Life Groups:** Life Groups @Flagstaff are a vital part of who we are as a community of faith as we seek to grow in Jesus. Not only do we explore the messages God has for us from the Bible but we also have the opportunity to connect with others and experience a place where no-one stands alone.

**Discipleship Groups:** which focus on study and prayer. Thursday 1.30 p.m. Contact Sarah 021385905.

**Community Facing Groups:** Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming which may centre on an activity, a hobby, a talent, a life stage, a project or service. Groups include, Steady as you Go, Hire a Helper, Community Garden, Women's Coffee Group @ Coffee Culture (Held 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.45 pm), Green

Fingers, Walking Groups and more! If you would like to join a group, start a group or find out more information then please contact Brendon on 0273569200.

**Tithing/Giving:** There are many ways we can support the activity of God in our church, community and world. Two ways of making your church offerings.

1. Use internet banking to make direct credits or automatic payments to the Flagstaff Community Church. Westpac bank # 03-0903-0192517-03. Please include your name for reference or if you use Envelopes use your Envelope reference/number.
2. Join the envelope system by contacting Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052 320. You will receive a set of personally numbered envelopes. This can be placed in the kete/ basket at the foyer entrance anytime during Sunday Worship.

If you give to special appeals or missions, you can claim on these donations by identifying the appeal by naming it when you make the internet payment or by putting your number or name and address on an envelope.

**Contacts:**

**Prayer Chain:** Sue Yule 476 7655, or Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Pastoral Care:** Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Envelope System:** Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052320

**Hall Bookings:** Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Technical Equipment:** Gary Dent 027 4763155

**Church Newsletter:** Jenny Neill 467 5813 [dandjneill@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dandjneill@xtra.co.nz)

**Minister:** Rev. Brendon McRae  
Phone: 027 356 9200  
[brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz)

**Elder:** Sarah Barton  
Phone: 021 385 905  
[sarahbarton629@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbarton629@gmail.com)

Flagstaff Community Church Services 9:30am (Communion 3rd Sunday of each month)

**Parish contact details:** PO Box 10074,  
Halfway Bush, 9042, Dunedin

**Website:**

[www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz](http://www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

[www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff/](https://www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff/);

**Office** 9 Centennial Avenue Wakari  
Dunedin, 9010

