

MODERATOR'S 2024 EASTER MESSAGE



Resurrection Hope

I have been in ministry for 26 years now, and every Easter, I find myself experiencing the same dynamic. I cannot begin to write my Easter Day sermon until I have led/attended the Good Friday service. I need to first go through the Good Friday experience. It is a process of following the story, and not engaging with the resurrection account until after the crucifixion. Without reflecting on the events of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, we cannot fully appreciate the joy and significance of the resurrection.

Easter is at the heart of our faith. And the narrative it brings to us – that life is stronger than death, that hope is stronger than despair, that the light is stronger than the darkness – makes us an Easter people. People of the resurrection. That large narrative provides a framework in which we live out our lives.

When we have those times of 'walking through the valley of death', we carry with us a sense of that overarching hope. When we are racked with grief, we have the inherent hope that healing and wholeness will come. And through the cross of Jesus Christ, we have the assurance of coming into deep relationship with God our Creator. There is a reuniting, a reintegration of that which has been torn asunder.

The word salvation comes from the Latin root of *salus* or *salvus*, which can be translated as health. To be whole, to be integrated. Reintegrating, reuniting from what we were estranged from, equipping us for the kind of life our Creator intended us to have.

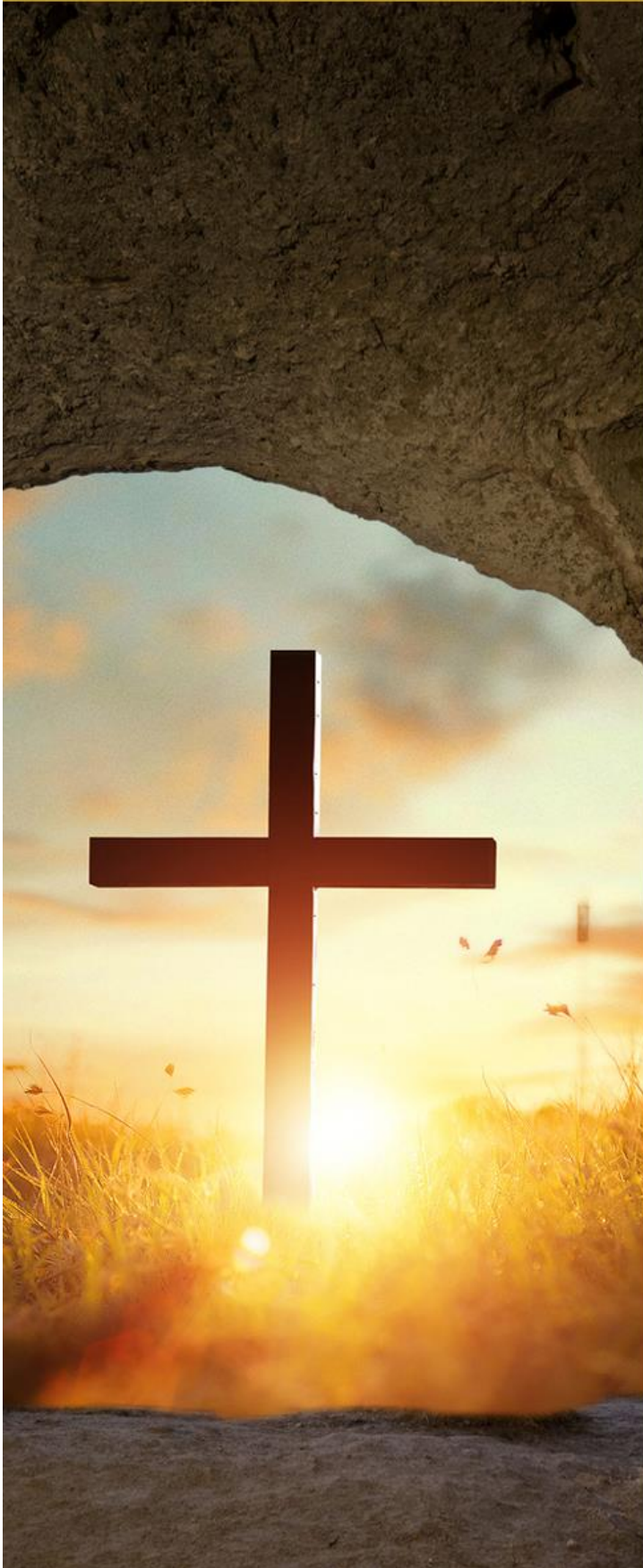
Resurrection is mystery and promise, reality and hope. The dimension of hope was fundamental to the thinking of the New Testament writers. The suffering of Christ and the suffering Christians were undergoing were the birth pangs of a new age. In Christ, God had begun to move with power. Christian faith was faith in one who had raised Christ from the dead and therefore they could persevere with hope and confidence, joy and expectation.

And that continues to speak to us today. The resurrection event of Easter is not just something we remember as a past event, it is a continuing reality which gives us hope today. We live in a world that is in real need of a sense of hope. Individuals, communities, countries alike. There are many who are feeling disconnected, isolated, overwhelmed with the pressures around them and the polarization of society. The Easter narrative has something important to offer in this space. A word of hope into situations of despair. A promise of reintegration after brokenness. A sense of 'gathering in' as opposed to separating out. Relationship with the Risen Christ who connects with us on this journey of life and holds out the promise of fullness of life. In Christ all things are made new.

This Easter may we all experience afresh the life-giving joy of being people of the resurrection, and may that be something we in turn live out in our communities.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

Right Rev Rose Luxford
Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
moderator@presbyterian.org.nz



Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church March, 2024



Easter Services

Flagstaff Community Church

Good Friday Reflective Worship Service

Join us for coffee and Hot Cross buns

Friday 29th March, 9.30am

Easter Celebration Service

*You are invited to our Family Celebration Service:
including children's activities, singing and stories.*

Sunday 1st April 9.30am

Ā, upane! ka upane! whiti te ra! A new sunrise, a new day!

Update from Dakar, Senegal: Hi Flagstaff Church Whanau: We are so excited to share with you the arrival of our little girl Huia Melody Taiaroa Mephams. She sped into this world a couple of weeks early. We are so incredibly thankful that not only did my parents arrive just in time (the day before), meaning my mum was able to be there for the birth, but also that things went incredibly smoothly and fast. I can truly say that there was just lots of smiles and joy in the room as baby Huia arrived. It was a unique experience that reminded me of a New Zealand Whanau in my birth-room, with the room full of 9 people! Thank you to all those we know have been praying for us! Love the Mephams. Yo, Sam, Nahla and Huia

Thank you from Alan Hanson and his family. Thank you for your love, thoughts and prayers that you have expressed with the death of Susanna. Very many thanks.

Invitation to all Young at Heart, Wednesday 27th March at 2 pm at Wakari Church. Geoff Skilton will give an illustrated talk on a team trip to Vaum Junior Secondary School on the island of Paama, Vanuatu to assist with building maintenance, buddy reading, making bricks for a new class room among other jobs. Everyone welcome. Afternoon tea.

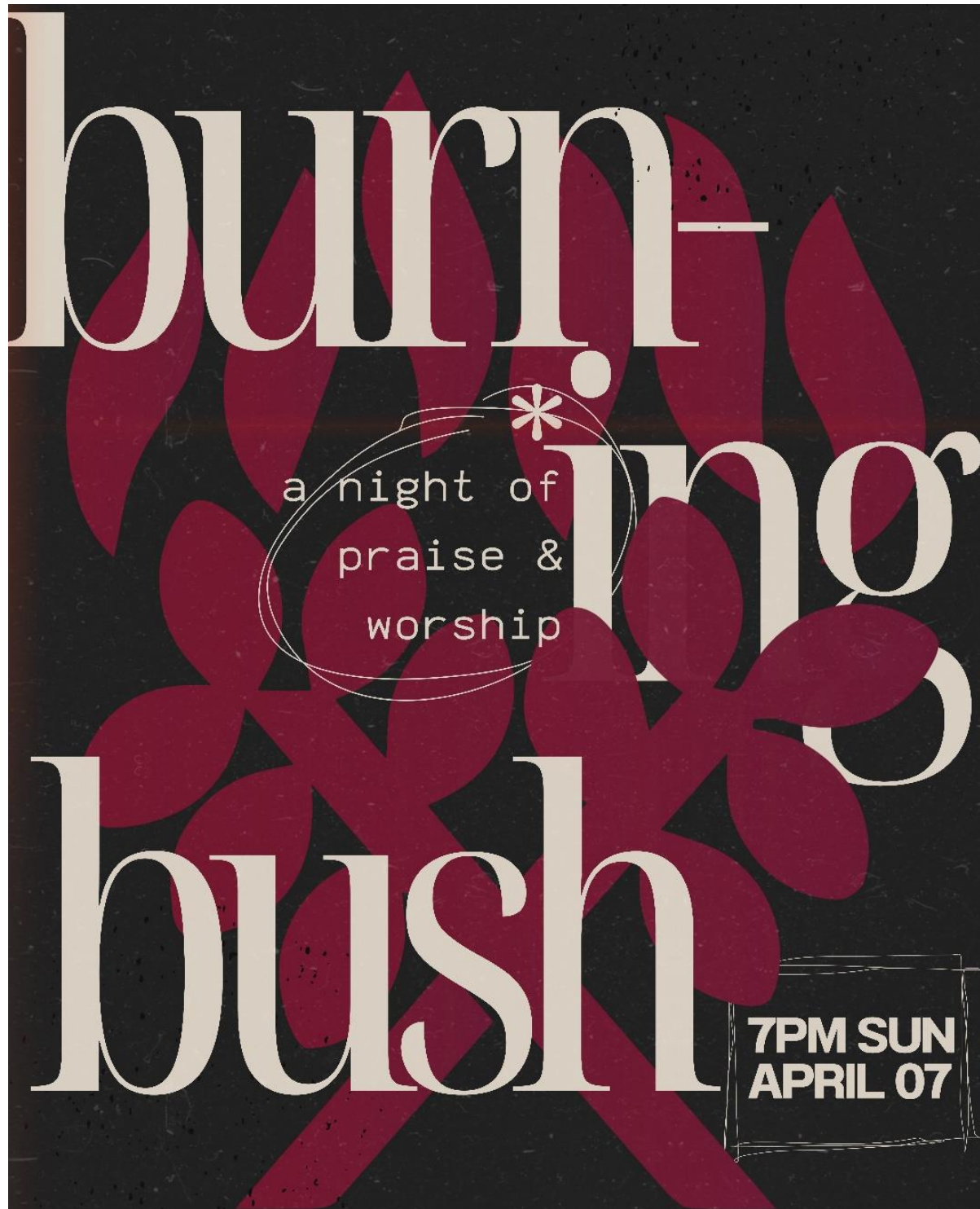
Church Phone Directory has been updated. If you would like a copy these are available in the church foyer.



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.

burn- ing bush



a night of
praise &
worship

7PM SUN
APRIL 07

George St Normal School Hall

"...and the bush was blazing,
yet it was not consumed."



Sharing the cross with neighbours at Easter



NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA
1-31 MARCH 2024

Tena koutou katoa

Throughout March, many of our parishes will be extending the hand of friendship to neighbours for Neighbours Aotearoa month. This year, with Easter falling at the end of March, Neighbours Aotearoa provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share with neighbours the hospitality that is so important to us as followers of Christ. To show our love 'not in word or speech but in deed and truth' (1 John 3:18). I encourage you to reach out to the neighbours and strangers in your community and welcome them into your space, or meet them where they are, and generously share a cup of tea and something to eat.

In particular, please share an Easter bun with your neighbours. The humble bun is such a well-known well-loved Easter tradition, and it is loaded with far more than currants and cinnamon; the cross on top represents our faith, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. It represents suffering and sacrifice yes but also forgiveness, love, life, salvation. Let's celebrate with everyone, let's welcome everyone, and may they see the heart behind your gift.

I encourage you to enter the draw for a \$50 supermarket voucher to buy Easter buns to share with the strangers and neighbours in your community.

Ngā manaakitanga
Rose

Right Rev Rose Luxford
Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Parishes, enter the draw for \$50 hot cross bun supermarket vouchers

This year, we are encouraging parishes to share Easter with neighbours. To help you connect with your community we have 10x \$50 supermarket (NW and Pak'nSave) vouchers to give away to Presbyterian and Cooperating parishes. To enter, email your church or church group name, your physical mailing address, and how you will use the voucher to share hot cross Easter buns with your neighbours to: angela@presbyterian.org.nz by 9am, Wed 13 March. Vouchers will be drawn by the Moderator same day.

Ideas for sharing hot cross buns

See this PCANZ [website link](#) for ideas on how to share hot cross buns with your neighbours. They include asking permission to supply hot cross buns to local schools – you might also be allowed to read/perform the Easter story; hot cross buns at community and sporting event, an Easter tea & coffee morning, picnic in the park, BBQ, beach day; hot cross bun in local letterboxes with a note about what Easter means to your church and a list of community services and events your church hosts; gift buns outside your church, shopping centres, libraries, op shops; take hot cross buns to rest homes with hand-drawn Easter drawings and messages from children; host a 'best hot cross bun in town' competition, or Easter art show with a hot cross buns theme; invite neighbours to your church to make hot cross buns or give out ingredients to make them; host a hot cross bun hunt for children; gift buns to your local foodbank...and more!

Neighbours Aotearoa Presbyterian events

See the [PCANZ website](#) for inspiration from parishes that will host or have already hosted Neighbours month events such as the upcoming St Peter's Presbyterian Church Ellerslie 'Picnic in the Park' on 17 March (generously supported by Presbyterian Support Northern and a PressGo Give it a Go grant). And the recent successful Mornington Presbyterian Church shared community lunch, where the community was invited to koha or bring a dish of their favourite food or a cultural dish to share.

SEE MORE ON THE PCANZ WEBSITE: <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-ministers/prescare/neighbours-aotearoa-formerly-neighbours-day/neighbours-aotearoa-2024>

CAMPS EVENTS



DUNEDIN EASTER CAMP

Mar 29 - Apr 1
@Tirohanga Camp

More Info Click [HERE](#).



PUKERAU EASTER CAMP

Mar 28 - Apr 1
@Camp Columba

More Info Click [HERE](#).



BOOST CAMPS

Twice per year @Camp Columba
Leadership training and formation for
young leaders.

More Info Click [HERE](#).



SPORTS CAMP

Held over Kings Birthday long weekend
@Camp Columba. Go as a youth group
and compete against other groups.
More Info Click [HERE](#).

Community Connections

*an e-bulletin spreading the word about PSO activities to
Otago Presbyterian Churches*

March 2024



Presbyterian Support
Otago

Highlights & Happenings

Support Sundays:

January 21st	Portobello	February 11th	Mornington
February 25th	Cromwell	March 3rd	Clutha Valley

We greatly value our connections with you all. Support Sunday's offer us opportunities to connect & learn what's going on in your area, whilst giving you an update on what our teams are seeing and the services we offer to support people in these challenging times.

I sent out information on **Neighbours Aotearoa**. A focus in March to get to know our neighbours. Mornington Presbyterian hosted a successful lunch, now planning to run them monthly, other ideas are here: <https://neighboursaotearoa.nz/>

I would love to hear what your parish has been up to!

I am here for any inquiries you may have about our services or how you can support PSO—details below.

Joy

Presbyterian Support Stakeholders Meeting February 27th



Tuesday Feb 27th PSO hosted a stakeholders (Parishes, Presbytery, Synod) meeting with 23 attending, there was a real buzz in the room. An opportunity for us to share what we do in our various roles. Family Works (Social Services) & (Enliven Aged Care Services) Directors both spoke also. We learned some didn't have a full understanding of the range and level of services PSO provides. There was excellent feedback and it was noted that support from stakeholders can be given in a variety of forms.

Many thanks to all who attended .

OUR SERVICES

enliven
PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT OTAGO

Family Works
PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT OTAGO

Shop on Carroll

Vintage Fashion Show



2024 Mar 21st

**Along with iD Fashion
Festival 2024, Charity
Vintage Fashion Show.**

An evening of entertainment, genuine pre-loved vintage & retro fashion, great raffle prizes & shopping!

A complementary beverage and individual anti-pasto box are included!!

**At Shop On Carroll, 169
Princes Street, Dunedin.
7pm to 10pm**

[Buy Tickets Here](#)

Contact: Joy Davis, PSO Community Relations Advisor

Phone: 03 4777 115 email: joy.davis@psotago.org.nz web: psotago.org.nz



Interested in studying Theology? The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers a wide range of papers and qualifications, all available via distance learning. Some papers are taught via videoconferences, others include teaching days in Wellington, while a few involve week-long intensives. For further information go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology. or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639.



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.

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. If you would like to join one of our weekly groups please contact Sarah Barton 021 385905.

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 7.30 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.

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

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 021 1052320

Hall Bookings: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Technical Equipment: Gary Dent 027 4763155

Church Newsletter: Jenny Neill 467 5813 dandjneill@xtra.co.nz



Kaumātua - Elders

Presbytery Elder: Sarah Barton

Phone: 021 385 905

sarahbarton629@gmail.com

Vanessa Gordon: ness.gordon@gmail.com;

Alastair & Sue Yule: yules@xtra.co.nz;

Tim Mephram: tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz;

Gary Dent: gary.dent7@gmail.com;

Andrew Sims: andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com;

Minister: Rev. Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

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;

www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff;

Office 9 Centennial Avenue Wakari
Dunedin, 9010

