



# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

[www.alpinepresbytery.org](http://www.alpinepresbytery.org)

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## Newsletter 8th April 2020

### Presbytery is available!

If you have positive news to share or concerns to sort out please let us know! For example, the Takaka congregation have told us that last Sunday they joined together at "St Zoom's" for worship, and that it worked very well.

Our Presbytery is available online and by phone right through Easter as well, but please note that **our landline phone is under "lockdown" at Cashmere** so cannot be accessed at this stage. However you can contact us through phone or email as below:

**Moderator, Anne Stewart:** ph. 021 032 3329 , email [anne@villagechurch.nz](mailto:anne@villagechurch.nz)

**Executive Officer, Barry Ayers:** ph. 021 2649677; email [barry@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:barry@alpinepresbytery.org)

**Admin Support, Gail Weaver:** ph. 021 161 5563, email [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you need to talk about something that is on your mind.

### Ideas for Easter

How can we be creative this Easter during lockdown?

- \* Tie a black cloth around your letterbox on Good Friday; maybe black out the windows that day? Swap it for something colourful on Easter Sunday - maybe flowers?
- \* Make up a window display in your house - maybe use the egg symbol speaking of new life. Use teddy bears as "actors". Change them each day to tell a story.
- \* Use your social media to remind people of the essence of Easter. Involve children with good questions, etc. There are good resources including colouring pages, puzzles etc online.
- \* What other creative ideas might you design?

### A Useful Resource for People

A great interview between PM Jacinda Ardern and Psychologist Nigel Latta with some good advice for families and general hints and tips during lockdown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRVFW0GdVl4>

### Decision-making

Download the latest advice from the Book of Order Advisory Committee for congregations seeking to have decision-making meetings when physical meetings are not allowable: [Opinion BOAC](#)

### Applying for the Government Wage Subsidy

PCANZ have produced a document containing useful information to both assist treasurer's in applying for the government wage subsidy, and answer frequent questions that have been coming into PCANZ. Download it here: [Wage Subsidy worksheet](#).

### Resources

We have set up a Covid-19 page on our website to give you ongoing access to the various resources available to use at this time. It will include lists of resources advised in previous Newsletters. Go to: [alpinepresbytery.org/covid-19/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/covid-19/)

A central place for resources is being coordinated here (scroll to bottom of the page) [www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information).

### Newsletter Items

We will be continuing with the Newsletter over the lockdown period. If you have notices or resources to share, please email to [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

Cut off date for items for inclusion in next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 16th April**.



## Introduction to Christian Meditation

In this time of isolation and stillness you might like to engage with an ancient practice of Christian Meditation to help keep you grounded in God. Dugald Wilson is offering a six week introduction to this practice. You will need to commit to a regular practice of daily meditation, with a weekly group link up via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7.30pm for some basic teaching and a group meditation together. We will be using the meditation practice offered by the World Community for Christian Meditation – see [wccm.org](http://wccm.org)

This practice involves sitting in stillness and focusing your being using a mantra. It is a practice that was used by early Christians, and is finding renewed interest as science tells us meditation is good for us. It reduces anxiety, releases healing power, and allows God to transform us from deep within. In an age where much Christian prayer seems to be about getting God to do things for us, this form of prayer makes space for God to do things within us.

If you would like to know more or would like to join the introduction course please contact Dugald Wilson at [dugaldwil@gmail.com](mailto:dugaldwil@gmail.com)

## Moderator's Easter message - He is Risen

Jesus the Christ is risen, indeed.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid... Jesus, who was crucified.... he is risen, just as he said. Go quickly and tell his disciples. He has risen from the dead" (Matthew 28:5-7).

Rejoice and be glad that our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, did rise from the tomb. Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures. Every page, every word foretold about the Messiah of God, prophesied by God's prophets since the beginning of time, came true.

Jesus the Christ of God has risen.

This risen Christ spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, there they will see me" (Matthew 28:10).

The encouragement from the angel, and the words of our Lord Jesus speak to us clearly! "Do not be afraid". The disciples were terrified, they had lost all hope at Golgotha. Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied him, most of them scattered for fear from the Roman soldiers and of the religious authorities. They were lost and afraid.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ our Lord Saviour died and rose from the tomb. What does it mean for us?

It means salvation, eternity with God is ours, if we believe and accept that Jesus is Lord. That he came to redeem humanity back to God. He taught and exemplified the way of the Kingdom of God. His resurrection defeated death. His sacrifice, the perfect Lamb of God, paid for our transgressions. Jesus personifies the love of God, in life, in death, in resurrection.

May we sing everyday with the faithful gone before us, "He is Lord, He is Lord. He has risen from the dead and he is Lord. Every knee shall bend, every tongue confess. That Jesus Christ is Lord". Alleluia, Praise the Lord, Amen.

Beloved, do not be afraid.

Jesus is risen.

Nothing on earth, in heaven and in the world below can separate us from the love of God, in Jesus Christ. This was Paul's words in encouraging the early church. Especially the persecuted faith community in Rome.

Do not be afraid.

Be careful out there. Be wise in life, be strong in the faith. Be kind to everyone. Be the light of Christ in our challenging times.

Jesus said, "And surely I am with you always to the very end of age" (Matthew 28:26).

Yours in Christ's service,

*Right Reverend Fakaofa Kaio*

*Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

## Moderator Election

The Assembly Executive Secretary has advised that, in light of the decision to postpone the General Assembly until September/October 2021, due to the impact and uncertainty caused by COVID-19, Moderator Election process for

2020 is now cancelled.

Early next year we will be given fresh instructions regarding the process to be used for the Moderator Election for 2021.

## Presbytery Directory

We are now using Infodile for our database, so will not be providing a printable directory in future. Gail is working through providing log-on links to those who need them. In the meantime, if you need to find out contact information for a particular person or parish, please ask your Parish Office in the first place. A link to the last printed directory is still available in this newsletter.

## New Resource/Information Links

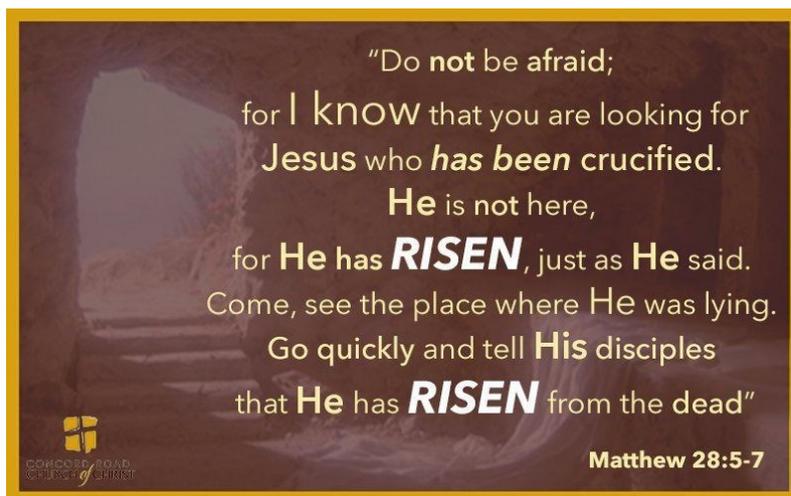
- Prayer exercise for COVID time: [An Hour of Prayer for the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- PYM Lockdown Youth Ministry: <http://pym.org.nz/lockdown-youth-ministry-vlog/>
- [Alleluia Poster: Get Ready for Easter \(COVID-19 Edition\)](#)
- New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library: [Christianity Today, Vol 64 No 3, April 2020](#)  
[Sojourners, April 2020](#)

## Other Newsletters

- [UCANZ Newsletter](#)
- [UCANZ Directory for local churches and Forums](#)
- [International Rural Churches Association Newsletter](#)

## From last week

- Message from Presbytery Moderator Rev Anne Stewart
- COVID-19 Important information from Presbytery Council
- Where to go for ministry support and resources
- Message from the Moderator & AES concerning General Assembly: [Communication concerning General Assembly](#)
- Rev Maurice Chapman
- Implications for Property Insurance in the current environment
- Update from Presbytery Council Meeting –Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020
- Newsletters and Resources
  - [Bush Telegraph](#)
  - Lockdown: Church response to the mental health challenges of self isolation: <http://www.conversations.net.nz/church-response.html>
  - Parenting Place <https://www.theparentingplace.com/lockdown-hub/>
- Strength to Strength Counselling



Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4niqgg/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>

## Presbytery Contact Details

Executive Officer

Rev Barry Ayers:

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Phone: 021 264 9677

Alpine Presbytery Moderator, Rev

Anne Stewart

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Phone: 021 032 3329

Presbytery Resource Minister

Rev Dr Darryl Tempero:

[darryl@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:darryl@alpinepresbytery.org)

Phone: 027 556 0055

Other items can be sent to Gail

Weaver, Office Support, at

[gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

## Presbytery Directory

[Click here](#) to download the latest directory, dated January 2020

Any amendments or corrections should be advised to Gail in the Presbytery Office.

## Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework

[Click here](#) to download the Strategic Framework