

### Church giving:

Some folk have asked how they can continue to support the work of the Church while we are in this lockdown period. If you have internet access, please consider making your regular donations online! You can set up a regular automatic payment from your bank account. As long as your name is put in the reference section, we can record the amount for your annual donations receipt. Our Parish bank Account at BNZ is 02-0800- 0005141-000. If you have any queries or concerns, please call Peter Ph 021978343

### Hymns online

There are two programmes of hymns recorded in New Zealand and available online. They can be listened to at no cost at any time and repeated as often as you wish.

Hymns on Sunday Morning: This is a Radio New Zealand programme.  
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/search/results?utf8=✓&q=hymns&commit=Search>

Praise Be: This is available from TVNZ on demand  
<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/praise-be>

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### **PARISH STEWARDS**

Nynke Piebenga 07 871 9595

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### **Te Awamutu Methodist Church Website**

[http://www.methodist.org.nz/find\\_us/waikato/waiariki/te\\_awamutu](http://www.methodist.org.nz/find_us/waikato/waiariki/te_awamutu)

or just search 'Te Awamutu Methodist Church'

**Notices for next Sunday's bulletin to Lynn please  
Phone 07 871 3554 or email colinlyn@xtra.co.nz**

## Weekly Newsletter – 5th April 2020

### **METHODIST PARISH OF TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA**

**Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu**



### **Palm Sunday**

My most memorable Palm Sunday was in 2007. Colin and I were in Uganda with a group as part of the heifer scheme that this church, and a number of you as individuals, supported so wonderfully. It is now self-supporting in the hands of the local people which was always the aim. Over the weekend before Easter a local missionary couple took our group to a weekend gathering at Bwindi on the Uganda/Rwanda border. On the Sunday the weekend's programme culminated in a church service when all four churches in the parish combined with many having walked a long way out of the jungle to be there. The large building was packed with many more people outside looking and listening through the windows. The drums, the enthusiastic singing and the rhythmic moving was amazing tingle-down-the-spine stuff. As 'muzungus' (white people) we were given places of honour up the front of the church which we did not feel comfortable with. We had been asked which one of our group was the pastor. Next choice was this lowly Methodist Lay Preacher. "You will preach about Easter," I was told and I had about two days to prepare. What to say to these people who had little in a material sense but such big and generous hearts? I decided to speak about what they knew - growing their food - and spoke about the need for a seed to die before it will

produce new life (John 12:24). My message was interpreted phrase by phrase. It is one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I now see this happening as we go through this lockdown period as a nation. What are we letting go of and re-thinking? From where will new life come?  
*Lynn*

### Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Psalm 118.1-2 & 19-29](#) A psalm of procession to be sung as the king enters the city. The people celebrate and the priests make a sacrifice to the Lord.

[Matthew 21.1-11](#) Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Crowds excitedly greet him by waving palm branches, spreading their clothes on the road ahead of him and shouting "hosanna."

### Alternative readings for Passion Sunday

[Isaiah 50.4-9a](#)

[Psalm 31.9-16](#)

[Philippians 2.5-11](#)

[Matthew 26.14-27.66](#) or [Matthew 27.11-54](#)



### Pray for others -

Lord, we are so grateful for all the people who continue to work each day so that people are able to eat. We ask that You bless and protect them as they serve. Give them grace to handle disgruntled customers during supplies shortages. Keep their bodies healthy as they unload and stock boxes of supplies. Keep their cars and trucks running smoothly as they deliver needed supplies and food people have ordered online. And please protect them all from contracting the new coronavirus <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayers-people-affected-new-coronavirus>

**Missing your usual community newspaper?** The Te Awamutu Courier is not publishing in print at the moment, due to the regulations surrounding deliveries, but is maintaining an online presence at [teawamutucourier.co.nz](http://teawamutucourier.co.nz) and on Facebook

**Have you seen our Facebook page?** If you use Facebook to connect with your friends and family, check out the Te Awamutu Methodist Church page. There you will find news, tips, things to make you smile, and maybe things to make you think. Next Sunday, Easter Sunday, make sure you join us on Facebook at 10am for a special gathering to celebrate this most sacred day. It will echo one of the earliest of Methodist traditions, that of the 'Love Feast', although John Wesley would never have dreamed of an on-line version!

In his own words: "In order to increase in (the societies) a sense of all God's mercies, I desired that we might together 'eat bread' as the ancient Christians did, 'with gladness and singleness of heart'. At these love-feasts (so we termed them, retaining the name as well as the thing which was in use from the beginning) our food is only a little plain cake and water. But we seldom return from them without being fed not only with 'the meat that perisheth', but with 'that which endureth to everlasting life' "

*John Wesley's 'Plain Account of the People called Methodists' 1748.*

At 10 am, gather in front of your computer with some water (I think I will heat mine up, and add a spoonful of coffee) and "a little plain cake", and we will give thanks together.

### PANDEMIC

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times? Cease from travel. Cease from buying and selling. Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is. Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life. Centre down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart. Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful (You could hardly deny it now.) Know that our lives are in one another's hands. (Surely, that has come clear.) Do not reach out your hands. Reach out your heart. Reach out your words. Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live. – *Lynn Ungar, 11 March 2020*