

Waikato-Waiariki on Wednesdays

15 April 2020

*Tuia te rangi e tū iho nei.
tuia te papa e takoto nei.*

*Join sky above to earth
below, just as people join
together.*

*Mo tu cake, mo rarama
mai; ni sa yaco mai na
nomu rarama, ia na serau i
Jiova sa cadra mai.*

*Arise, shine; for your light
has come, and the glory of
the Lord has risen upon
you. (Isaiah 60.1)*

*"If I cannot do great
things, I can do small
things in a great way."
(Martin Luther King, Jr)*

Kia ora e te whānau! I hope you all had a safe and peaceful Easter.

Language is important. I recently heard a speaker say that he had decided not to call Alert Level 4 a "lockdown". Instead he preferred the more positive Māori word "rāhui" (temporary restriction) because it emphasises that it takes a community to enact a rāhui. We will only be successful in our efforts if we work together as a community.

News

Keep updated with the Methodist Church of New Zealand's Pandemic Plan. New updates are issued on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and can be found at www.methodist.org.nz

Staying connected

There are now many online options for offering people pastoral and spiritual care. But a significant number of people don't have computer access. Please make a special effort to stay in touch with them:

- ask your pastoral team to ring people regularly
- offer to pray over the phone
- suggest that they read a psalm, pray or light a candle at a designated time every week
- remind them of the healing and inspirational power of music
- send your worship resources to your local rest home so they can be distributed among residents

Funerals & tangihanga

One of the most difficult aspects of Alert Level 4 is the restrictions placed upon funerals and tangihanga. Make sure you stay aware of the Ministry of Health's guidelines (www.health.govt.nz) and note that these are regularly updated.

Be creative and adaptable in the way you respond to the needs of families. The Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand has compiled a helpful Grief Resource with ideas for honouring and farewelling people while we remain in physical isolation (www.fdanz.co.nz).

Prayers

“Praise be the farmers, tilling soil, planting seeds so food can grow, an act of hope if ever there was ...

praise be the teachers finding new ways to educate children from afar and blessings on parents holding it together for them ...

praise for the artists and poets, the singers and storytellers, all those who nourish with words and sound and colour ...”

(“Praise Song for the Pandemic”, Christine Valters Paintner)

Community support

Many families and individuals are struggling to meet basic needs during this hard time. Civil Defence and local councils are working with volunteer organisations to support people and have set up the Waikato Freephone 0800 800 405. Please advertise this to those who need it.



Contact details

Synod Superintendent: Susan Thompson - 07 856 9699/021 057 0913 or sjthompson84h@gmail.com

Synod Steward: Viv Whimster - 07 578 6056/021 137 2349, or vjwhimster@gmail.com

Synod Secretary: Jenny Ma'u - 021 0538010 senifa1@gmail.com