

ACLAIM

WCTWIN



Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder
Union Parish

"We aim to be a reflection of God to the community"

Bi-monthly Newsletter of The Alexandra, Clyde Lauder Union Parish ~ Feb /March 2023

Advice For a New Year

Research from the United States shows that roughly 38% of people make New Years resolutions. 23% quit in the first week, and only 36% make it past the first month. Over the course of a year just 9% successfully keep their New Year's resolutions. The research found that most resolutions were health related. Usually exercise more and or loose weight. But I wonder if you do anything to prepare for the New Year, in particular; spiritually.



I invite you to read: **Isaiah 43:1-13.**

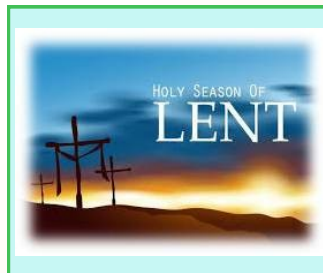
I want us to consider verse two in particular:

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

In our reading God talks to His people, the Israelites, as they begin a journey. After years in captivity, they rejoiced at the freedom to return to their homeland. But to get there, they would have to travel a long distance.

Their travel would look quite different from ours - no plane to catch and no trailer to haul their earthly belongings. You can just imagine the challenge this nation would face when they found themselves standing in front of deep waters or difficult rivers.

Men, women, children, livestock and all their belongings would have to find a way through these physical obstacles.



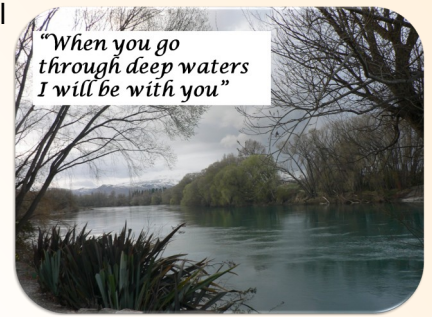
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Though we may not come upon an actual river, we will likely encounter something this year that mimics a rushing current or suffocating smoke.

Notice how our key verse says, "When you go through deep waters ... When you go through rivers of difficulty ... When you walk through the fire of oppression."

When. Not if.



Most of us have experienced enough of life to know that for all of us it is a matter of, when; not if, struggles and sufferings will come our way. If you live long enough or love long enough; pain and suffering and loss are known parts of our life journey. For several of us this year will be no different. The people of Israel were guaranteed to encounter all sorts of trouble as they journeyed with God. But let us be prepared for it. No matter how strong or how sure we feel our faith is we need to remind ourselves and to lean into the promises of God as we face another year of uncertainty. Some of the things we will encounter will be deeply personal to us, others will perhaps affect our whole country or even world. Yet through all things we needn't be worried that we will face them alone.

The bible is quite clear that the people of God will face adversity, challenge, and suffering. Any preacher that presents following God as an insurance from trouble is deeply misleading.

God didn't just warn of potential problems ahead, He included promises to stand on in the midst of them.

God will be with us. We will not be overtaken. We will not be utterly consumed.

As we head into 2023, let's start this one prepared, grounded in the promises of the God who at Christmas came alongside us, and who promises to always be with us, so when we face the trials of life we will stand. Undaunted by deep waters. Ready for rivers of difficulty. Fearless in the face of the fire.



Every Blessing
Rev Andrew Howley

Rev Andrew Howley, Parish Minister, Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder Union Parish

Office Hours: From 31st January 2023, Rev Andrew Howley will be keeping regular office hours **in the St Enoch's Vestry.**

They are **9:30am - 12:30pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday's.** **Phone: 021 518 053**

An excerpt from Ewing C Stevens Book - "One Man's Religious Journey"



Page 118 " I believe that we come to the writings that suggest they are reports of what happened after 3pm on the first Good Friday, when Jesus died, we are stepping into the realm of faith and conjecture. When we read the Gospels of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John we sense a similarity between the birth narratives and the resurrection narratives. In both angels appear. It seems to me that angels in the New Testament are used by the writers to warn the reader that what he is about to read does not deal with history but is moving into the field of faith. The name "angel" in the New Testament stands for "messenger." So the introduction of angels tells us that there are messengers from God explaining the mystery of the death of Christ. Whenever I read of angels in the New Testament, I immediately say to myself, here is conjecture of the Christian Faith.".....

Page 119..... "These discrepancies in the accounts again present us with different traditions which must have been expounded and expanded by the early church. We should not find this strange for here is faith being put into words, and no two people have exactly the same faith or express their beliefs in the same way. The Christians built their later beliefs from one basic common belief, namely that the spirit that had been evident in Jesus Christ, still continued with them, helping them understand life better, even after Jesus had died.



Time and again, the disciples were conscious that they did not live life alone. Jesus had given them a new trust in a father spirit who was with them, at all times, and with all men at all times. And this spirit of the father became closely associated with Jesus Christ their great teacher. The disciples, therefore believed that Jesus had not been stopped by death".

A comment in this book ,Ewing wrote at 84 years of age:

Page 186 "If someone asks me now what is the basis of my religion and faith I would simply say: "I am a follower of Jesus." His words and actions still guide me. In all the philosophies I have studied I have yet to find a better way to live than what he has taught me. All the later doctrines of the Church can never shake the primary simple belief in the wisdom of what Jesus taught so long ago and I am ready to leave the arguments about how many angels can dance on the point of a pin to those who choose to spend their lives chasing such matters. For me Jesus is Lord of my life."

"Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children." (Mathew 5: 9) (permission to print, granted from Ewing Stevens)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023



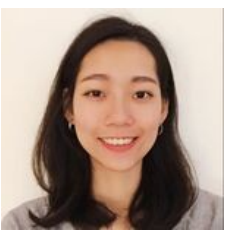
Have Heard About Your Faith Ephesians 1:15-19

The artist, Hui-Wen HSAIO, used several motifs that highlight Taiwan's best-known features to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to Taiwan.

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking up into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.

The Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill, two endangered species, are both of unique significance to the Taiwanese people. Their distinctiveness symbolize characteristics of the Taiwanese people-- confidence and perseverance in times of difficulty.

The green grass and Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the "Kingdom of Orchids." Green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God's care.



"The subjects of my art always depict the relationship of mothers, women, and people. In my exhibitions, I compose my artwork to express my observation, gratitude, and faith."

The theme of the WDP 2023 program is based on Ephesians 1:15-19, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith, and prayed that they could see these three truths: the hope to which God has called the disciples, the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of God's power.

God's calling has a meaning and a purpose. Oftentimes we are frustrated by difficulties and obstacles and may even lose our hope and faith or rely on our weak human nature. However, we are called to keep our "hope and faith" in God's kingdom and promises. Through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we come to see the faithful, loving, and gracious God. We regain our hope and faith to face the challenges and move forward. As it was written in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

*-The prayer of St Francis of Assisi
How can we sow God's peace in a broken world?
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*



From Wikipedia

On 29 November 1979, Pope John Paul II declared Francis the patron saint of ecology.^[41] On 28 March 1982, John Paul II said that **Francis' love and care for creation was a challenge for contemporary Catholics and a reminder "not to behave like dissident predators where nature is concerned, but to assume responsibility for it, taking all care so that everything stays healthy and integrated, so as to offer a welcoming and friendly environment even to those who succeed us."**^[42] The same Pope wrote on the occasion of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 1990, that Francis "invited all of creation – animals, plants, natural forces, even Brother Sun and Sister Moon – to give honour and praise to the Lord. The poor man of Assisi gives us striking witness that when we are at peace with God we are better able to devote ourselves to building up that peace with all creation which is inseparable from peace among all

As it says in John 16:33, in God, we can have peace because He overcomes the world. The bible verse is a great reminder that no matter what challenges we are facing, God assures our victory. We can take heart and conquer all trials because He is with us. And He who promised is faithful.



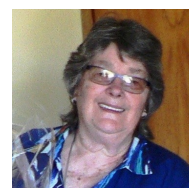
John 16:33

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of...

Ewing Campbell Stevens - 20th January 2023
- St Enoch's Church Alexandra

Antonius (Tony) Jacobus Willems—23rd January 2023
- St Mungo's Church Clyde



Treasurers Report

For the past 2 months, December/January, the **income** was **\$20,301.28** and the **expenses \$16,669.06** giving a **credit of \$3,632.22**. This is due to the successful Christmas Fete at St Enoch's and New Year's Day Garage Sale and stalls at St Mungo's.

The generosity of Peter and Linda Griffieon, allowing us to pick their cherries, boosted the sales at St Mungo's and from our 'pop up' stalls outside St Enoch's. Thank you so much Griffieon's!



Preliminary income from the last sales day at St Mungo's, last weekend, Waitangi Sunday is approx. \$1,130.00 with a further \$141.00 from another 'pop up' stall at St Enoch's selling 'Flatties' peaches kindly donated by Meg and Kevin Paulin from Earnsclough. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish.

It has been a busy few months for some but this fundraising is essential for the future of the Parish as membership declines and giving decreases. Those who continue to support our Parish in many and varied ways are greatly appreciated. *Linda Armstrong*

Past & Upcoming Events

**ALEXANDRA
COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS DAY
BBQ LUNCH 2022**

A message of gratitude to all the people who donated their time, food and sponsorship to this community event.


This event was organised by Gordon Wilson and Rotary Alexandra with support from Rev Andrew Howley Great Team Work.



Movers n Groovers is a Combined Churches of Alexandra ministry. Every Thurs at 10am (during term time) preschoolers and their caregivers come to Alexandra

Baptist Church for 30mins of music and dance. This is following by a snack & water for kids and a sweet treat and hot drink for adults. Our helpers come from across the churches. We are looking for more volunteers to help welcome families and help in kitchen. You can join in with dancing if you wish but are not required to have rhythm. We aim to roster people once month.

If you are interested in serving our community in this way please contact Rosalie Howley at rose_kiwi@hotmail.com

Lenten Bible Study 

A 6 week Lenten Study will start on Tuesday 21st February 2023

This will be held in St Enoch's Foyer at - 10am
(Please let Andrew know if you are attending so that he can order enough booklets)

REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Weekly

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Study Group All Welcome | Every Tues 10.00am from 14th February except 6 weeks of Lenten Study in St Enoch's foyer 10am From 21st February 2023 | 3a Mayfair Grove Alexandra |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|

Monthly

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Afternoon Fellowship | 4th Thursday of the month 1.30pm Contact: Various | Various |
| St Mungo's Fellowship | 3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm Contact: Sheryll Hanning | Various 449 2703 |
| Parish Council | 4th Wednesday of the month Contact: Kathy Milligan | St Mungo's Clyde 021 0261 5866 |
| Parish Evening Group | 4th Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Contact: Linda Armstrong | Various 447 3612 |



8 February 2023 Turkey and Syria Earthquakes

Appeal Commended by PCANZ Moderator

As someone who lived through the devastation of the Canterbury earthquakes, I know how shocking this can be for a community. We were so touched to receive gifts of monetary support from around the world at that time. This is a chance for New Zealanders and our Church to do the same for others experiencing even more devastation than we had in 2011.

Right Rev Hamish Galloway Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ

donations can be made:

- Online and by direct deposit to the [Turkey Syria Earthquake Appeal](#)
- By phone with a credit card: 0800 74 73 72
- By post to: CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140

EDITORS NOTE:: The next ACLaim will be April/May 2022 please have any articles to me by **Monday 20th March 2023**. Phone 448 8486 ***Gay Gordon.***

Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

Upcoming Worship Services 2023

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Feb 15th | Castlewood | 10.30am | |
| | Ranui | 11.00am | |

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Feb 19th | Baptism | Transfiguration |
| | Alexandra | 10.30am |
| | | Combined Service |

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Feb 26th | Clyde | 9.00am |
| Lent 1 | Alexandra | 10.30am |

March 3rd World Day of Prayer St Aidan's Shannon Street
TIME 10.00am

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|------------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| March 5th | Clyde | 9.00am | Communion |
| Lent 2 | Alexandra | 10.30am | Communion |

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|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| March 12th | Clyde | 9.00am |
| Lent 3 | Alexandra | 10.30am |

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|----------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Mar15th | Castlewood | 10.30am | |
| | Ranui | 11.00am | |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| March 19th | Clyde | 9.00am |
| Lent 4 | Alexandra | 10.30am |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| March 26th | Clyde | 9.00am |
| Lent 5 | Alexandra | 10.30am |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| April 2nd | Clyde | 9.00am | Communion |
| Palm Sunday | Alexandra | 10.30am | Communion |

April 7th Good Friday-Alexandra- St John's The Baptist Catholic Church -Alexandra TIME 3.00pm

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|-------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| April 9th | Dawn Service | 7.00am | Alexandra Lookout |
| Easter Day | Clyde | 9.00am | |
| | Alexandra | 10.30am | |

Contact Us

Minister:

Rev. Andrew Howley

**Phone: 03 448 8511
021 518 053**

Email:
Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com

Office Hours
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Rev Andrew Howley will be
keeping regular office hours
in the St Enoch's Vestry.
They are 9:30am - 12:30pm,
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Friday's.
Phone: 021 518 053

Parish Clerk:
Kathy Milligan

Phone: 021 0261 5866

Email:
sheeba398@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.alexchurch.org.nz

Like us on FaceBook
[Facebook.com/alexchurch](https://www.facebook.com/alexchurch)

Worship Times

Sunday:

Clyde: 9.00am

Alexandra: 10.30am

If you require
transportation to
church please ask!

Telephone Jennifer
Bowie: 448 7369
Sue & Don Melville
448 9233