



Alexandra Clyde Lauder

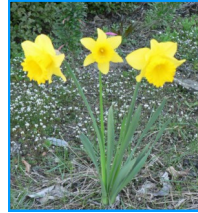
UNION PARISH

ACLaim Newsletter

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

Ministers Musings:

It seems that suddenly Spring is upon us, warmer and longer days, and the ever-present signs of new life springing forth. My Nectarine tree is about to burst forth with blossom, and the first lot of seeds for vegetables for the church fair have been planted. September is also the time in the church calendar when we pause and to take stock of the role of creation in our relationship with God. Creation is an important part of the biblical story, we are from its beginning in the garden in Genesis, and in Revelation the ending is the garden. Revelation 21:22—22:5.



Our church traditions each acknowledge the importance of creation:

- Our church traditions each acknowledge the importance of creation: The Presbyterian church has for many years spoken of mission in terms of the five faces of mission: the last being The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand believes it is called by God to work with others in making Jesus Christ known through – Caring for God’s creation.
- The Methodist church has committed a decade for Climate Justice entitled: to Rekindle the Va of Papatuanuku Rekindle (light up again) the Va (the relationship between humans and the earth) of Papatuanuku (earth). It has the focus on the following 2023 – 2024 Zero Waste, 2025 – 2026 Climate migrants, 2027 – 2028 Water, 2029 – 2030 Energy/Transport, 2031 – 2032 Poverty reduction / food creation and sharing.

Cont....

Tri-monthly Newsletter of The Alexandra, Clyde Lauder Union Parish ~ Sept/Oct/November 2024

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- Services and Contacts

Springtime in Clyde



It is easy for us to get discouraged and downhearted about our world, the challenges and pain and suffering that people face, both individually, in our families, locally, nationally and internationally. And yet God through creation offers all of us wonderful hope. A couple of examples from Holy Scripture:

- **Colossians 1:16-17 (NIV)** *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*
- **Hope Offered:** This passage assures us that everything in creation is held together by Christ. This gives hope that nothing is beyond God’s control, and everything has a purpose in His plan.
- **Psalm 19:1 (NIV)** *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*
- **Hope Offered:** The beauty and vastness of creation continually speak of God’s glory, providing a constant source of hope and assurance of His presence.

Some practical ways to encourage you on your journey of caring for creation.

- **Many** research studies show spending time in creation is so good for us in many ways – mentally, physically and spiritually. Make some time this week to spend time in nature and give thanks for this beautiful world God created. Step back and smell the roses as they say. Plant something in the garden, walk in your local park. Share with a friend or family member what you saw, heard and experienced. Give thanks to God for creating such a precious and amazing world.
- **Pray.** We don’t have all the answers to the challenges we face, but sharing our feelings and challenges with God lightens us.
- **Learn** more about the challenges we face. One of the greatest injustices of our time is that the people least responsible for the impact on creation and climate are often the most vulnerable to its impacts.
- **Have** conversations: many are surprised to hear that Christians are interested in creation and caring for our shared home. This is an opportunity to share faith, and how caring about this planet and every living thing on it is not somehow antithetical to who we are as Christians, but rather central to it.



Cont....

- **Take a stance of being for our environment.** Encourage and lobby our leaders and politicians not to just choose their decisions on an economic basis. Together we can reset towards a more just, compassionate and sustainable society. Together we can build a world that reflects God's justice and desire for all creation to flourish.

A Prayer for Walking in the Season of Creation

God of Earth and Sea and Sky,
we give thanks for the gift of life,
for the goodness and wonder of all creation.

As we walk in this Season of Creation
may we walk with joy and gratitude in our hearts,
for the whole community of life.

May we walk with humility,
with all our senses open,
so that we grow in awareness,
and in our sense of connection
with the natural world.

May we also notice the ways,
in which humanity is hurting creation.

May our walk help us to change the way that we live,
and to live in right relationship with the Earth.

Let us walk for a more hopeful future,
and sow seeds that create justice and healing. Amen
Ngā manaakitanga. Blessings of the season!

Mark Gibson



Every blessing as you share the blessings of Christ.
Rev Andrew Howley

IN MEMORIAM

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

Jacoba (Coby) Zoutenbier - funeral held on 14 May 2024

At St Enoch's Church - Alexandra

Betty Elizabeth Lott - funeral held on 11th June 2024

At St Enoch's Church - Alexandra

James Restell Hanning - funeral held on

15th June 2024 At affinity Funerals - Alexandra



Belated Fathers Day Page

Hanging out with Dad :

- ☺ Prepare a scavenger hunt . You could hide some of your dad's favourite treats and go with him as he searches for them.
- ☺ You could take him to the park for lunch and even make him lunch with a little help from mum.
- ☺ A Fathers Day Card is fun to make or you could draw a portrait of dad and glue it to some cardboard, make some holes at the top and put a bit of string through the holes and tie them in a knot. Your dad can then hang it up on a hook. (You may need help with this gift.)

Don't forget to write a fathers day message on the back.



- ☺ If you can find some walnut shells you can get someone to help you break them in half. Clean the inside, pop a little bit of play dough in the middle, make a sail out of paper, put a toothpick through the sail from top to bottom. Fill a dish with water and you will be able to float the walnut boat. If you blow a little, the boat will move. You can do this project with Dad.

DAD'S HANDS

*Dad's hands give generously, serve humbly, and love mum tenderly,
unselfishly, completely, unendingly.*

*With his hands, Dad held me when I was small, steadied me when I stumbled,
and guided me in the right direction.*

When I need help, I can always count on Dad's hands.

Dad's hands protect me.

Dad's hands are strength.

Dad's hands are love.

With his hands he praises God.

And he prays to the Father with those big hands.

Dad's hands. They are like Jesus' hands to me.



A Note from the Editor: *It has been a busy time for me these last few months as I have been in Australia visiting my family. It was lovely to catch up with them and meet my first great grandchild. We had the most marvellous time attending all sorts of events. The baby was taken to swimming lessons and sensory playtime. We took the family dog for walks to the playground and a specific dog park as well. My eldest granddaughter came and visited me when she could and I spent time with her dining out & going to see some interesting blowholes but unfortunately it was low tide so we never saw the gushing water. On my return to New Zealand I developed an influenza so that is why I am late with this publication. (My thanks to Linda Armstrong, for the info in the Weekly News, which I have copied.)*

Past & Upcoming Events

SOUP & BUNS / SWEET TREATS

Thanks to the Social Action Team of Sue, Glenis, Linda and friends, and to all those who supplied a variety of Soups and sweet treats.

It was a time of fellowship and Friendship and a warm place to gather during the cold & foggy winter.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Following receipt of pre-approval from the Presbyterian Synod of Otago/Southland and notifying the Methodist Synod, the Parish Council met on Tuesday July 23rd 2024 to discuss the future of St Mungo's Clyde.

After a lengthy discussion, it was moved "that the Alexandra Clyde Lauder Union Parish Council approves the selling of the property at 60 Sunderland Street, Clyde. Known as St Mungo's."

This notice of motion will be presented to members of ACLUP at the AGM on 8th of September 2024.

Special note: Information re the above motion is now available.



Alexandra Clyde Lauder
UNION PARISH

PARISH FAIR

Saturday October 26th (Labour weekend)

We are reaching out for help from parishioners:

Home Baking, butter will be available if required. See Sue Melville.

Donation of **hamper items**, to be collected in labelled box in St Enoch's Church foyer.

Continue collecting **New World Stickers:** for Glass containers with lids. If you don't need these please put in collection box in foyer.

Books and Collectables Table: If you have saleable items you no longer need, please send these our way! Please, no electrical or electronic or large items, e.g. Furniture or old TV's. Items can be left in Church foyer or ring **Sue 027 723 4262** or **Barbara 027 221 7383** if pick up is required.

Plants; Sheryll is doing a great job selling Snowdrops now, but if you have green fingers, now is the time to pot up plants for the fair.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Weekly

Study Group	10am – All Welcome	3A Mayfair Grove Alexandra
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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	3rd Wednesday of the month Contact: Don Melville	St Enoch's 03 448 9233
Parish Evening Group	4th Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Contact: Linda Armstrong	Various 447 3612



OUR NEW LOGO— No matter where we are in the parish, from Clyde to Alexandra and stretching out to Lauder, the hills are ever present. Echoing the line from *Psalm 121*. “1. I lift my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? 2. My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”

The dual Yellow & blue toning reflects two things: Our heritage of our two churches Methodist & Presbyterian, and of course we are located in Otago, Highlanders country.

The rivers again are about place, the Mighty Mata-au/Clutha and the Manuherikia, both vitally important for our communities. This is echoed in *Psalm 104:10*. “He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.” the rivers are flowing & have taken on a subtle stylized shape of Koru, a recognition that we are located on the whenua/land of Aotearoa. The cross of our faith is Central to the Logo. A rising Sun speaks of 2 things, again of Central, the hottest & driest place in New Zealand and also a reminder of God & our role in praising God. *Psalm 113:3* “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”

EDITORS NOTE:: As from this Issue the ACLaim will only be available four times a year. The next ACLaim will be Dec2024/Jan/February 2025 please have any articles to me by **Monday 4th November 2024**. sent to me via email :ggordon@actrix.co.nz or Phone 448 8486 *Gay Gordon*.

Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

Upcoming Worship Services 2024

Sept 8th	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 16
Sept 15th	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 17
Sept 18th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
Sept 22nd	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 18
*Sept 29th Pentecost 19	10.00am St Aidans		Combined Service With Anglicans
Oct 6th Pentecost 20	Alexandra	10.00am	Communion
Oct 13th	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 21
Oct 16th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
Oct 20th	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 22
Oct 27th	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 23
Nov 3rd	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 24
Nov 10th	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 25
Nov 17th	Alexandra	10.00am	Pentecost 26
Nov 20th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
Nov 24th	Alexandra	10.00am	Reign of Christ

Contact Us

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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:
Alexandra: 10.00am

If you require transportation to church please ask!

Telephone:-

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Sue & Don Melville :
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Chris Beilby
021 449 296