

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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PARISH BULLETIN

17 April 2022

WORSHIP FOR Sunday 24th April 2022

9.30am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Poultney
11.00am	Glenaven	H Watson White

DATES TO REMEMBER

STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens



In the preschool we spent the week celebrating Sea Week in the hope to excite and inspire the tamariki to renew their connections with the sea by getting to know the ocean, its habitats and inhabitants better which was the whole reason for the development of this national event in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We started the week by having some visitors join us in the Kōtuku room, 4 real sand crabs all the way from Taieri Mouth.

We began by making a safe habitat for them to spend the week in within our class, gathering a small amount of sand to layer on the bottom of the tank so that they could still hide if they needed to feel safe and secure in their new unfamiliar home. I had collected sea water, some shells, sea snails and living sea weed to add to their habitat to make it more like home while adding different elements of the sea that the tamariki would explore and become familiar with.

During the week the tamariki enjoyed observing the crabs within their new habitat where they shared their observations with each other watching as they scurried around sideways, at times it took some real detective work to find where they were as they were very good at hiding under the shells, sea weed and in the sand. If the tamariki were brave enough they had the opportunity to hold a sea snail and discover that they were very different to the snails that you find in the garden and on the paths after a wet day.

Jacob (Kaiako) explored the impact that we have on the ocean and the sea creatures that live within when our rubbish washes into the sea. The tamariki were presented with images of sea creatures and rubbish items laid out on the carpet and asked to imagine that this was the ocean, immediately the tamariki began commenting and identifying the rubbish that did not belong in the ocean. We then talked about the impacts that human rubbish in the oceans can have to the animals. It was amazing to

hear the discussions that the tamariki were having especially when they learnt that rubbish can go into the ocean via the drains.

Michelle (Kaiako) supported the tamariki to experiment with having a go at drawing their own sea animals using our visiting crabs as inspiration.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



Eastering in the Face of Despair

This weekend the liturgy chimes notes of joy, hymns of triumph are sung, we hear familiar tropes about the victory of life over death.

Alleluia.

Yet I am surely not the only one to feel some dissonance this weekend, between the triumph that marks our Easter celebration and the world as it is today. For the better part of some two months now we have seen a violent onslaught by the Russian Federation on Ukraine and with that what seems to be a deliberate policy of maximising civilian deaths and a sense of terror. We have perhaps let slip from our sight other conflicts of equal barbarity in Syria and the Yemen. Away from the battlefields we find other causes for our despair, such as the possibility of a thinly veiled fascist becoming President of France. We cannot forget to the environmental degradation and climate change our species is inflicting on the World.

Might our Alleluia's ring just a little hollow? Could Easter be a retreat into our safe space? Our little Christian bubble – a soothing place where all feels as it should. Indeed religion can be like that though at its best Methodism has always sought to be engaged with the World.

A retreat to our bubble is perhaps understandable, it might be easy right now to be trapped in despair.

How can we face things as they are, yet be hopeful? How can we be emotionally congruent? Authentic and present to things as they are and how can we celebrate Easter in the midst of it all?

St. Paul tells the church in Rome to “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” We cannot read about, listen to or watch others suffer without extending our compassion to them, doing what we can, praying at the very least. But we must also rejoice with those who have good news. It seems we will always know people who celebrate or suffer, just as we ourselves swing between the two over the course of our lives.

Such is the human condition, such as it has always been and we are called to be authentically present to it. To celebrate and to mourn, to congratulate and to console, and this truth marked the life of the early Jesus community; the proto Church.

When I read the accounts of those early followers of the way who abandoned the tomb of the upper-room to gather together to build communities of compassion it is clear to me they were nurtured by images of resurrection. The followers of Jesus were lifted up from a crouching or cowering position as they boldly proclaimed what they had learned from Jesus, they embraced a way of living in hope. Let us live in such a way, and show that there is no ending, no dying that does not bring with it the possibility of newness. Let us live with the truth of this, let this be our Eastering.

David Poultney