

BLESSING A RENOVATED SMALL CHURCH

What we call the smallest church in New Zealand is a church which was made from a converted Station store. It was in major need of repair or closure. The community rallied around and we now have the smartest smallest church in NZ.

KEKERENGU OPENING

Today as we gather to sing carols in celebration of what God has done for us we remember God has called us into community and it is exciting to stand in this renewed building which so many have helped to renovate.

Through the hard work of the community, this building which began life last century as the station store and was converted into a church in the 1940's, has had a complete renovation and it looks great.

As we stand here surrounded by the landscape we love we are mindful of those who have cared for the district in the past. By their hard work we have been provided with much. Now as caretakers of the land we seek to do the best for the generations to come. It is with this in mind we have worked hard on this building and as God to bless it and the work that it symbolizes.

Let us pray for Gods blessing on this church

God of all, it is part of your divine purpose that we learn to live in families and communities. Continue to teach us how to care for and support each other. Bless this church which is a symbol of our community life. Guide those with direct responsibility and enable everyone to enjoy it benefits. Protect and guide us by your presence, strengthen our bonds of community in and through the love of Jesus Christ our lord. Amen

BLESSING OF THE VAN

Simon is a member of our church who was badly injured in a plane crash when he was in his 20's. Though his injuries meant in time he became confined to a wheel chair he continued to farm. The following blessing was used for a purpose built van he brought.

Seeking to honour and serve God in all that they do Simon and Rosa have come today to give thanks to God for this symbol of mobility and freedom found in and through this Van.

Let us pray

Heavenly father, we thank you for all your goodness to us For the wonder of your creation and the ability that you have given human kind to shape it into useful tools to aid and enrich our lives. We thank you for all those that have been involved in finding and altering this van. Such has been their skill, knowledge and understanding that through them you have granted the freedom and pleasure that mobility brings to Simon and Rosa. May this vehicle be a symbol of Hope and joy not only to Simon and Rosa but also to others that they come in contact with. May it be an inspiration and encouragement to others that rely on wheelchairs for mobility. We ask that you bless and keep safe all those who travel in this vehicle. May they find joy, pleasure and freedom through the use of this tool that you have given. May the peace and blessing of almighty God rest upon this van, upon all those that travel in it, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen.

EX AWATERIAN SERVICE

This is a service we hold in Blenheim where many of the people of our district retire to. It gives an opportunity for people to gather have a small service and then share lunch and enjoy catching up with each other.

WELCOME

On behalf of the St Ninian's Church and the Awatere Christian Joint Venture welcome to this service and luncheon as we celebrate our links and friendship with the Awatere and Flaxbourne area.

PRAYER

Lord we gather this morning in the unity of your spirit and comradeship and friendship that has its roots in the Awatere and Flaxbourne. Bless us as we worship you and spend time fellowshiping together. In Jesus Name Amen

HYMN Praise to the Lord the almighty #22

BIBLE READING

It has been a whole year since our last ex Awaterian service and it is good to be together again. Many things have been happened in the last 12 months. Some good and some not so good

With some sadness we note that there are those who were with us last year that are absent today. As we remember them we thank God for all they meant to us and the richness they brought into our lives.

We thank God also for the large turn out of friends here today

The Ex Awaterian services are for those who have a very fond place in their hearts for the Awatere and Flaxbourne . They are a time in which we come together to hear what is happening in the area and catch up and renew our friendships..

By and large the greatest impact on the district in the last 18 months has been the drought. When we meet last we were poised on the brink of drought wondering how bad it would get. The winter had been unusually dry and the Spring had come and gone very fast.

We watched and waited as the hills went from green to brown then to a shade of silvery white. We saw many Truck units of stock go out of the district and dams dry up. We wondered if this was going to be as bad as the big one of 1958 which many of you battled through.

As a people of faith the church watched, prayed and sought to support those in the district. Among the many things we did was holding a dance and organising a drought service in a paddock. The support we received from you and others in town for this service was tremendous. It meant a lot to us to know that people cared. During the service naturally we prayed for rain and wisdom of how to farm through the drought. We took from the service a small dead pine tree, some mud from a dam and some chewed tussock to put into the church until the drought broke. Little did we know then that many a visitor was to wonder over the coming months why we had not got ridden of the Christmas tree yet.

A day after the service the black clouds rolled in and as I was working in the garden I prayed to God saying yes Lord make it rain then it will prove to everyone that you are the living God. Well it did rain but as I stood there getting wet I realised God does not have to prove anything because God is God.

As the drought got worse the Army arrived with their water tankers and the media came to town.

We watched and waited eyeing the crucial dates on the calendar and thinking it will be okay as long as we get rain before the middle of march or even the end of march. Those dates came and went and our feet became heavier because the soil temperatures where plummeting. It seemed as if the district was destined for another year of drought.

What had happened to our prayers? Had he not heard us call out in our frustration?

Yes God had given us wisdom to farm well. You only had to look around the district to see the condition of the remaining stock to see this.

But where was the rain that we prayed for?

Well it came in the first weeks of July..The paddock were we had stood for the drought service was in some places 5 foot under water. The water soaked into the parched ground. But was it to late?

No the temperatures remained mild through the winter and the grass continued to grow. So much so some farmers even had the problem of Lambs struggling in the long grass.

Since then the rain has continued to fall and if you were to drive through the Awatere today it could not look better. It is green and many a paddock is being cut for hay.

But even though the physical drought has ended we are now caught in financial drought. Brought about by the low stock numbers left and the financial strain of farming through the drought.

The drought was made easier for us because of the lessons and the work carried out by past generations like the water schemes that carried water to where it was most needed.

It was made easier by the support we received from out side the district, such as the army water tankers, the many cards, letters and the like and by those who came and stood in our soil on the paddock during the drought service.

It was tempting to think that God had forgotten us in our plight as the rain did not come in the amount that we wanted. That God does not answer prayer!

But in his timing God does answer prayer. The rain came when we had given up hope, we thought it was to late for there to be any good grass growth,

Yet when the drought broke in the middle of winter the grass grew so much that the district now looks great.

If we cry out to God he does answer our prayers, his ways and his timing are beyond human wisdom.

As we face the droughts in our lives like the financial one the farmers face in the Awatere or your own personal droughts whether it is a health issue, a family matter or some other thing, let us remember God is sovereign and can do all things, if we pray to God he will hear us and act.

It won't always be in the way we envisage but it will be in a way that only the all seeing, all knowing and all powerful God knows is right.

PRAYER

Living God we want to acknowledge and say thank- you for all that you have done for the district that is close to our hearts during this period of drought. We thank-you for the way that you have answered our prayers for rain, for the way that the grass continued to grow through the winter and the way the district looks so good now.

We continue to bring the people of the Awatere and Flaxbourne area to you in prayer asking that you help them through the financial drought they suffer from now.

We also think of our own personal droughts, Those trails that we are facing at the moment and ask that you break into these situations and bring a gentle rain to revive the parched soil of our lives.

We ask this in the confidence of seeing you act in our past and in the name of your son our saviour Jesus Christ Amen.

HYMN God is working purpose out

Martin Prayer for the collection

Lets pray

We bring our gifts to you, Lord God With cheerfulness and a joyful heart. Grant that these gifts may strengthen and enable ministry in the Awatere / Flaxbourne area. We give you thanks for the ministry that we have received. Amen

PRAYER

HYMN Now thank we all our God

BENEDICTION

May the blessing of God almighty, father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and all whom you love this day and ever more. Amen

Please join us in the hall for Lunch.

SEDDON CENTENNIAL

In 1999 Seddon celebrated 100 years since the first ballot of farm land the following is the address given in a special centenary service.

The soil I hold in my hand is the stuff that makes up the landscape we live within and love..When we look around at the vastness of the country in the Awatere, in a spiritual sense it indicates that God is all around us all the time & how in no way & in no fashion can we escape the presence of the father, Son & the HS.

Today as we gather to celebrate ` 100 years of Seddon we are mindful these 100 years are but a twinkling of an eye in comparison to the history that is contained in the landscape we stand on. This humbles us and reminds us it is God who gives us life and it is right to gather in worship and celebration of all that God has done for us and given us in the short space of time Seddon has been here.

The history of the church in the Awatere is long and rich. It is now over 146 years since the first clergy came with the gospel.However as with so often in NZ history, the Gospel probably preceded the clergy, as it travelled with the pioneering people & the Maori.Little has changed today, the prime, ministers of the Gospel are still ordinary people like you, as you seek to live out your Christian conviction and show the love of God to those you encounter.The first clerics who travelled through the district in 1853 & 1854 were Rev Dr Butt, Father Garin & Rev Nicholson. Over the years many clerics have followed.

As I think of them as I read the history book produced for this Centenary I am rather grateful for the many changes over the years and how I don't have to travel around the district in the horse drawn buggy as pictured.During the pioneering days of the district as it grew it was recognised that a place of worship was required, & it was the Presbyterians who were the first to secure a building. A thatched roof, loose box building at Taylors ford was acquired from the local inn keeper.

Spare a thought for those early church goers who gathered in this building, the congregation sat on rough planks supported by kerosene boxes and gin cases spread out over the clay floor. At the front the ministers table was fashioned out of a few boards on wooden boxes.

It was not until 1871 that the first purpose built church with seating for 50 people was opened.For some 20 years the Presbyterians allowed the Anglicans to meet in their building. Truly this shows the spirit of Christian cooperation that has been in the Awatere ever since.

The church has had some exiting history in which not only has God moved in mighty ways but also it's buildings.Both the Anglicans and the Presbyterians transported buildings to the new Seddon township area by traction engine from the Taylor's ford area.The Catholics where rather wise they met in the school house until the new town was mapped out before they began to build.

The Awatere churches have a rich and fascinating history which bears witness to the many people who have over the years laboured for the spread of the Gospel and in the power of the love of Christ in which they sought to demonstrate.

And so now 146 years after the first official arrival of the Gospel and 100 years after the beginning of Seddon we gather mindful of what God has done in the past and expectant of what God is going to do in our future in the Awatere.

As we look toward the future we must be mindful of those who we live in community with. We think of the things which bond us together. - the sad and the glad times and how these have shaped our inter-dependence on one another. .

As we gather it is good to look back and laugh and even shed some tears. Perhaps it is even a good time to question the long standing why's and take steps to mend and heal hurts. We need also to thank each other for the many ways our lives have been enriched by the gifts of love and acceptance we have received as part of this community..

No centenary is complete without looking forward where are we going in life? What are our priorities? As we think of the soil we must ask ourselves what is the very best gift or message we can leave behind us that will help those coming after us?

As we ponder that question it is good to remember where the soil comes from and look up The palmist said " I cast my eyes to the hills . Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth". God who created everything around us is able to be relied on at all times. Generations come and go but the Living God remains constant and true.

So as we think about these things today

Lets pray

Eternal God we gather today as we remember and celebrate our roots, we think of those who have come before us those who are with us now and we dream of those who will come after us.

We share many experiences that have ties with this land. Of fun and laughter and the hard work that brought sweat to our brows. For these we thank-you.

As the district has grown and the pace of life has accelerated the links have been maintained by telephone and pen. And yet we are still a community

Forgive us when we think community and close relationships are a burden stifling our personal freedoms.

Strengthen our finest intentions and our richest dreams of commitment to those whom share life with.

May our community be surrounded by love and understanding that only you can bring This we ask in the name of our saviour who died and rose for us your son Jesus Christ

SEDDON CENTENARY SERVICE

WELCOME/PRAYER

This weekend as we gather in celebration of the 100 years since the settlement of Seddon and of all this means to us , it is fitting that we gather this morning to worship the Living God.

In the spirit of the centenary we have included things within this service which represent different periods of church worship. Ranging from a piece taken from morning worship which comes from a prayer book written in 1662 and used by the first Anglicans in the district through to the style of the present day services.

Let us pray.

Lord as we gather in our celebration of the 100 years of Seddon we ask that you meet with us in a fresh and new way. May our worship may be pleasing to you. Amen.

HYMN guide me oh thou great redeemer

An approach from the old prayer book

Render your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil , Joel 2, 13.

DEARLY beloved brethren, the' Scripture moveth us in sundry places: to acknowledge -and confess our manifold . sins and wickedness and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face. of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble lowly penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. . And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before ; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that. we have .received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to -hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which we requisite and necessary, as -well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace.

In every history there are things that we are very proud of and even some things that we are not. And therefore it is only right when we approach our Holy God that we ask for forgiveness for the things we have done that we are not proud of.

Confession Priest My brothers and sisters in Christ, As the people of God in this part of the world we can say that we have not always been faithful and loving in the sight of God and in the sight of each other. We call to mind our sins and ask forgiveness, healing and strength.

On sheet

Priest Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father: lord have mercy.

People Lord have mercy

Priest: Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division. Christ, have mercy.

People Christ have mercy

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are the good Shepherd leading us to everlasting life. Lord have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy

Priest Know that God has the power and the dominion over everything. There is nothing more powerful. Let us forgive ourselves and others. Know that through Jesus Christ we are washed clean.

READING / Psalm Ps 8

CHILDREN'S TALK

GOSPEL reading Matt 22:34 - 40

MESSAGE

HYMN Affirmation of faith using "From heaven you came"

PRAYERS

Let us pray God of the wide open spaces, of the hills and trees and plains, you also build us in community. Bless all who touch our lives, where we work and where we socialise: at playcentre and school, at Federated Farmers' and Young Farmers' meetings, at Women's Division, Women's institute and Red Cross, at local stock sale days.

We pray for all whose work interconnects with ours: the local vets, and rural delivery mailman, the stock and station agents, local publicans, local and regional government representatives, and also the living pioneers of our area who bring the past vividly alive that we may look in hope to the future.

We give you thanks for all the riches that you have given us in the community. We thank-you for the foresight of those that have gone before us and ask that you help us as we strive to look after this land and build our community.

Let us pray together the Lords own prayer. Our Father which art in heaven,....

Announce the collection and the final hymn

HYMN Lord the light of your love is shining

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

SOMETHING FOR A FAMILY REUNION

I'm what you might call a new person on the block having only been here for three years. But in that short time I have observed the influence the Marfells have had and still have on the district. The minute books of community organisations such as the Red Cross, the school and the church are filled with the surname Marfell.

This of course is not the first reunion the Marfells have had. Reunions are a time in which we look back with pride and remember the achievements and contributions of our fore bears. They are times when we look around at our wider family and appreciate what bonds us together. And they are times when we are challenged to look ahead and ask ourselves what legacy we will leave behind for future generations.

I want to briefly touch on these aspects.

FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK BACK.

Proverbs 29:18 in the bible says "where there is no vision the people perish. At this time when Seddon is reminded of it's roots we realize that if it was not for the people of vision this strong and stable community would not have developed. So today we look back and thank God for placing the Marfell family in our community , for their faithfulness to him and for the vision they had for building a better future for the generations to follow.

FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GREAT TIME TO LOOK AROUND.

As we are surrounded by family members and remind ourselves of what bonds us together. - the sad and the glad times. It is good to look back and laugh and even shed some tears. Sometimes these are a good time to question a long standing why and to maybe heal a long standing hurt. It is a good time to thank each other for what they mean to us and the gifts of love and acceptance we receive.

FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK FORWARD

where are we going in life? What are our priorities? What is the very best gift or message we could leave behind us that would help those coming after?

Lastly FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK UP

The palmist said " I cast my eyes to the hills . Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth". God who created everything around us is able to be relied on at all times. Generations come and go but the Living God remains constant and true.

PRAYER

Eternal God we gather today as we remember and celebrate our roots we think of those that have come before us those who are with us now and we dream of those that will come after us. We share many experiences that have ties with this land. Of fun and laughter and the hard work that brought sweat to our brows. For these we thank-you. As the family has got larger the links have been maintained by telephone and pen. And yet we are still family. Forgive us when we think families and close relationships are a burden stifling our personal freedoms. Strengthen our finest intentions and our richest dreams of commitment to those that we love. May our families be surrounded by love and understanding that only you can bring. This we ask in the name of our saviour who died and rose for us on Easter your son Jesus Christ Amen.

FINISH WITH A BIBLE READING

TRACTORS AND SPRING

A service that was put together based around Bill Bennett's "Listen to the Shepherd Whakarongo Ki Te Kupu", 1997 Printed by Swift Print, 23 Taonui St, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Welcome Theme Tractors and spring

Prayer

Song Come on and celebrate Down the mountain

On OHP

*Minister:*The God of creation is here.

*People:*The Lord of the earth blesses us.

Minister let the earth bring forth her increase.

People :Praise to our God who brings us together.

Sentence: As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. (Gen. 8: 22)

Bidding Prayer (Confession)

We remember both the promise and the curse placed on the shoulders of humanity regarding the nurture of the earth; of God's promise at Eden, of how humankind defied the divine order, and God declared that the filling of the earth would be hard and wearisome. We see the power of tractor and plough transforming the landscape, that the land may produce its plenty. We also know that greed and misuse can create wildernesses and infertility. We pray that all modern farm machinery now in use in our district, will help sustain the earth's riches and provide for future generations. Amen

As we have acknowledged our need for Gods forgiveness and guidance we hear a sound coming from the mountains.

Song I hear a sound coming from the mountain

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD Psalm 8 A New Testament Reading Luke 8: 4-8

ADDRESS

Jesus told that story that we have just read and Luke wrote it down so that it would not be forgotten. Jesus said "a farmer went out to sow his seed" I wonder what sort of seed he sowed? I've got some seeds here. I wonder if you can tell me what sort they are? (*Show an assortment of seeds*) These seeds don't look very alive do they? In fact they look rather dead. But if we put them in the dark soil and let the sun warm the soil and the rain water the soil, one day we would see tiny green shoots coming through the soil. And do you know what we would see if we dug the little seed out of the ground with a trowel? We would see that in the darkness, the warmth and the dampness the seed had developed roots, before it developed shoots. So the seeds that looked dead came to life. When Jesus died and was buried in the tomb the people were sad because they thought he was dead forever. But God brought him back to life again and everyone was happy. Jesus was not dead he was alive. Were happy too because Jesus is alive for us too. We can't see him but his spirit is at work bringing new life into sad peoples hearts and lives. Spring time is a good time to think about Jesus coming alive and bringing new life as we see signs of new life all around us. Farmers all around the district are using their tractors at present to get the ground ready for planting of their seeds this spring which will remind them of new life. Here we have some little "Barley Boys" for you to take home. Inside their heads are barley seeds. If you sit them in the top of a jar their tail dangling in the water and if you dampen the head and put it on the window sill in the sun your little barley boy

will grow hair as the seeds come to life and send down roots into the water and shoots up to the light. It will help you to remember that Jesus brings new life. He is not dead but he is alive. Song From the rising of the sun to the going down Question What do we use on the farm to prepare for spring? The Tractor Ask the children to display their tractors, Big ones little ones..... Each Tractor is made and engineered for different tasks, some have front end loaders, some have trays on the back etc. The tractor has meant a lot of time saving and back breaking toil to the farmers. Isn't it good that God has given us brains that have helped us develop and make tractors. Lets give God thanks with a prayer about a tractor.

Lets pray.

God of all technology we give you thanks for the farm tractor, that modern symbol of our dominion over the earth. How versatile it is, how much we take it for granted. We plough the land, disc and harrow, dig, bulldoze, excavate. pull, saw timber, and harvest with it. We can build up and destroy with it, for it is an extension of all our possibilities to create and to subjugate. Help us use it wisely and safely. Thank you for this work-saver. Amen

Isn't God great the way he has given us clever people with minds and hands that could make tractors to help plant and sow the crops. And it's all because...

Song He's got the whole world in his hands

God has indeed got the world in his hands, this is shown by the way that he has given us creation to enjoy, He has given us our brains and our hands so we can create things like the tractor and subdue and use creation for good. We see this happening in our district as the soil begins to warm with the suns rays and the farmers are beginning to till the land for the seeds to be planted for Crops. We can begin to know Gods love and care as we work with Gods creation. It is a love that God wants everyone to know about.

Song Father God I wonder .I the Lord of sea and sky

One way we can show Gods love for people is to pray for them asking that God will bless them as they live and work. Lets us pray together using the OHP.

BLESSING OF TRACTOR AND PLOUGH

Farmer(s): We ask that, with the season of soil preparation and planting underway, you declare God's blessing upon this work, of which this tractor and plough are symbols.

Minister or Priest : God of the earth and sky, who guides the seasons through their cycle, give stamina to those whose days will be spent sitting on the tractor, in cool wind or dusty heat. Let the furrowed, fumed earth become a fertile seedbed for planting, and produce a rich and full harvest. Blessing of Tractor and Plough God speed the tractor and plough! May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and all who plough these paddocks. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. The world, and those who dwell there. The breaking of the soil and the furrowed trails of the ploughed earth, the roar of the tractor's engine and the sharpness of the spring wind: Declare your presence, O God. We skill of the plougher, with steady eye and hand, and the curiosity of the birds that follow after: Awaken our sense of wonder and responsibility. The days of discing, rolling and harrowing, with a constant eye on the weather, till the earth is ready for sowing; Reveal creation's patience and readiness to provide. The Creator who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. Thanks be to God.

Lord's Prayer

Song We plough the fields and scatter.

Blessing May the High God shield us all the day long. May we dwell under his protection today and forever. Amen.

WHAT'S IN YOUR PACK?

A service for a Cub Scout Parade at Church.

Wonder in complaining loudly about heavy pack, and the way it is digging in.

Welcome people (Cub pack)

Pray

Songs My life is in Lord Put on the Garment of Praise

Everyone knows that when you go on a trip the first thing you need to do is pack your bag. Bags come in many different shapes and sizes. When you have to walk one of the best bags to use is a pack. Because with a pack you can place it on your back while your walking. But oh this pack is not so comfortable. It's very heavy and it has things that are sticking into me. Lets see what's in here

Cans of baked beans, Large bottle of ice cream topping

Are these the things that I should be taking on a tramp? What do you think? *(Wait for answers)*

Have you ever thought about the way that we not only pack our bags to go on trips but we also pack our lives with all sorts of things for the journey of life. Some things that are helpful and other things are like the things we pulled out of our pack and they are not so helpful..

A helpful thing we could pack in our life might be the idea that we can be a helper not only to our family but also others that are in need. Like the person in the class that does not know how to do something.

An example of something that is not so helpful or can hinder, our enjoyment and others might be a competitive spirit that means we have to always be first no matter what. This can cause anguish and hurt to others.

Can you think of things that are in your pack , your life that are not so helpful, things that hurt others, or can destroy the resources of the earth?

Jesus promises to forgive all who are sorry for their wrongs. So lets pray. OHP

Dear God, we often do wrong things that hurt other people and hurt ourselves. Remind us of those things now by speaking into our hearts.. Pause

We are sorry God please forgive us. Help us to tell those we have hurt that we are sorry too, and help us by your Spirit to grow everyday more like Jesus Amen.

There is much to learn in this life. No one comes into this life an expert and this means that as we grow up there is a lot of learning we need to do. The people we learn the most from is our parents but we do learn from other people as well.

Who do you think we could ask for help in packing a pack like this one?

Accept answers -- Akelha, other scouts extra

We need help also in learning what to pack into our life packs. We can learn what is good to pack into our life from our parents, from the church and most importantly by having a friendship with Jesus and reading our bibles.

We're going to sing some songs now that focus on our need to make room in our lives for Jesus. Because as we make room for Jesus in our lives, Jesus can begin to show us what is important and what is not important for our lives.

Songs Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Chorus only

Seek ye first the kingdom of God.

As we look to Jesus he will lead us into a life that is characterised by Joy, Peace and Love. So let's ask him to give us these things.

Song Give me Joy in my heart

Readings Philippians 4:4-8, Luke 10:25 - 28

When I was much younger I was a cub and it was in the scouting movement that I learnt how to pack a pack when I went tramping.

I was told how weight was all important because whatever I put in my pack I was the one that was going to carry it. It was explained to me that there are 5 basic things that go into a tramping pack OHP

Food , Clothing, Shelter, Cooking gear, Hygiene requirements

Each of these things are important and must be balanced in relation to the type of trip you are going on. You would pack differently for a 7 day tramp in a national park to a weekend camp on the back of the farm.

For the purpose of this exercise let's think about packing for a long trip.

FOOD

Tinned food is out of the question because it is too heavy to carry. Some people like to take lots of sweets, chocolate and biscuits but you need to have something more substantial. I like to take de-hydrated food either brought from the shops or prepared at home because it is light and I can plan some rather yummy dinners using dehy.

Most food doesn't taste that good until it's cooked. I normally carry a white spirit cooker. This is small and easily used. It provides heat and used correctly there is little chance of setting the bush alight.

In life the sort of food we can pack is varied. We can pack ourself with a diet of TV, comics etc but this is the equivalent of junk food. A little is fine but too much is rather harmful.

We need a more balanced diet to grow in a healthy way. Jesus says that he is the bread of life and the way we eat of him is to read our bible and chew on it's message. Seeking to understand and apply it to our life, if you like cooking it and eating it.

SHELTER

Shelter is very important when you go tramping because you can never guarantee the weather or that you will get to where you are going. I have been places where we thought we were going to stay in huts but because of the weather the rivers came up and we were not able to get to the huts. That's why almost always I carry a tent.

A tent or a hut provides a warm dry safe environment to live and rest, so we can recharge our batteries again to tramp the next day.

In our life the church can be a place of shelter. A place that we can come and be sheltered from the coolness and the harshness of life, A safe place in which we can be built up ready for what lies ahead.

CLOTHING

The clothes we pack are important. Many look at the weather and then pack clothes that suit what they can see. So if it is sunny they pack shorts and tee shirts. Forgetting to pack warm things just in case it gets cold. When ever I pack I always take what I call my storm gear, Raincoat, over trousers, mittens, hat, jacket as well as my shorts and tee shirt, my sun screen and hat. That way if the weather gets bad I will not get cold and possibly even exposure.

Recently I tramped up mount Tapu. We started in the morning, the sky was clear and blue, it was going to be a fine day. A day made for wearing tee shirt and shorts and yet by the time we got to the top the weather got so bad that I had my mittens, jacket, over trousers, rain coat and hat on because it was so cold it began to snow. One member of our party was even worried that she would get frost bitten on her nose.

In the bible in Ephesians Chapter 6:13-18 it tells us what clothing we require if we are to pack our life according to Jesus.

Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet- Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them through - out your life. God's word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters.

HYGIENE

The last thing in the pack is the things that are there for hygiene, things like soap, towel, tooth paste & brush, . I often take a chux cloth instead of a full size towel because it is just as effective and it is lighter and smaller. I even have a friend that cuts of the handle of their tooth brush to save weight but I think that's going a bit to far..

When we are thinking of packing for life hygiene is the confession to God of the wrong things we do in our life and the asking of God to help us live more closely to Gods ways.

Gods way is summed up in the 10 commandments and to help us remember what these are lets do the 10 commandment rap.

Song 10 commandment Rap

There are many things that we can pack into our packs our tramping packs and our life packs. As we are all born without experience we need to learn from others how to pack. We can learn how to pack a tramping pack by asking akela or an adult that has done some tramping

In life we can learn from Jesus and Gods bible what is good to pack into our lives.

Our parents, our bible in Schools teachers, our church can all help us to understand the way we can apply the things we read and learn from Jesus.

Lets pray.

Living God We thank-you for the beauty of the Islands that you have given us in New Zealand. The bush, the mountains and the sea that we can explore. Help us to always be mindful of what we pack & guard us from harm. We ask that you show us the good things we can pack into our lives Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. Help us to use these in our life so that we and others might know and understand the life that they bring. Amen

Lets stand and sing

Song Oh where are you going.

Where going to spend some time praying for ourselves, for our country and for those that are less fortunate than ourselves As we do there will be times when I will pause so that you can contribute either in silence or allowed with your own prayers.

Let us pray

Blessed are you eternal God, to be praised and glorified for ever. Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the Church. (Pause)

May we the church all be one that the world may believe. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you, packing their life packs in such a way that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

We pray for all those that we know that are finding life difficult Those who are sick, grieving or in trouble (Pause)

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble. Help us to show your love to these people. In your presence may they find strength. Look with your kindness on our homes and families. (Pause)

Grant that your love may grow in our hearts. Make us alive to the needs of our community and help us to share one another's joys and burdens. (Pause)

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world. Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace. Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name. Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

We pray in silence for our own needs ...

Living God as we tramp through life help us to be mindful of you. To always seek to pack our lives in a way that is honouring to you and brings life not only to ourselves but also to others.

We bring our prayers together by praying the Lord's own prayer.

Our Father in heaven,....

Song I want to walk with Jesus Christ.

Dismissal

Go now and as you tramp through the many adventures of life remember to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.