



Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa

Te Taha Maori

March 24, 2020

*Whakawhētai ki a Ihowā, he pai hoki ia; he pūmau tonu hoki tāna mahi tohu!
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For his mercy endures forever.
(Ngā Waiata a Rāwiri 118:1, Psalm 118:1)*

E ngā mema o Te Taha Māori tēnā koutou katoa,

I roto i te āhuatanga o te Covid-19, ka tukuna te mihi aroha ki a koutou katoa.

As presbyters we write to you today to offer our prayers and our love. In the context of the Covid-19 response we want to reassure you that you are not alone. In the enduring faith that has kept us strong as Weteriana trust also in the *aroha* and the *manaaki* of *whānau*, *hapū*, *marae*, *iwi*, for one another. *Manaakitanga* mirrors Christ's message. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).

Whānau, hapū, marae, iwi across the country are addressing these matters in their own ways. The most vulnerable our *kaumātua*, *kuia*, *te hunga māuiui* keep them in your prayers and stay connected. This Lent we discover new ways of being in community and remaining in touch. For pastoral support please don't hesitate to contact your local *Minitā-i-tōhia* and *Minitā-ā-iwi*. Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa The Methodist Church of New Zealand has issued advice around a Covid-19 response. Church services, gatherings in our own buildings have been suspended for the time being. Jesus once said "where two or three are gathered in my name, there too am I" (Matthew 18:20).

I tēnei Rēneti kia tāhuri ai ō tātou whakaaro ki te wā i mua i te aranga ake o te Karaiti.

E te Atua Kaha rawa,

He atawhainga nāu ki a mātou i tēnei taima, i ngākau tahi ai mātou ki te inoi atu ki a koe; kua mea nei hoki koe, ki te huihui te hunga tokorua, tokotoru rānei, i runga i tōu Ingoa, ka tukua mai e koe ngā mea e inoi ai rātou. Whakamana aianeī, e Ihowā, ngā hiahia me ngā inoi ā ō pononga, ki ngā mea e tau ana ki a rātou; tukua mai ki a mātou kia mohio ki tō pono, i tēnei ao, ā, i tēra ao, kia tae atu ki te oranga tonutanga. Amine.

Ngā manaakitanga

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