

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 27th November 2022

Advent Sunday

Dear Friends

How does your time look between now and Christmas? Perhaps there are things you need to do to prepare such as gifts, meals, journeys to family or friends. Maybe there are special events in your diary. You may have made a task list and put the events in your calendar, be it paper or digital. This is all *your* time.

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, the beginning of the church year, that big wheel of time that every year turns us from the waiting of Advent to the joy of Christmas, to the waiting of Lent to the joy of Easter, to the waiting of Eastertide to the joy of Pentecost, to the joy of life in ordinary time and back again. This is *God's* time.

Advent is not a time when we go through the motions of remembering a story whose ending we already know. Advent is about the light shining in the darkness but not obliterating the darkness. It is about the kingdom having already come near to us but not yet having been fulfilled. There is much work still to be done. Will we go about our pre-Christmas tasks, marking *our* time and forget about the Advent stories of *God's* time? Or, perhaps, can we overlay these two arcs of time, taking care of the tasks that will make for a special holiday season *and* stay awake for the signs of the kingdom, of *God's* time, breaking into our time?

So, what do we do? The answer is in the Gospel and in Romans 13:11–14: wake up, be ready, and get up! Paul calls us to read the signs of the times, to understand the context in which we live and, above all,

to wake up from the sleep in which we are and get out of the dark. It is time to restore fair relations with creation and with others and time to think and behave as people made in the image and likeness of God.

All Sunday's readings call us to act. Humanity has brought on the night. It's time to get up, climb the mountain, walk, and make the light shine, so that Jesus will not find us asleep, destroying the work of God and being unfair to others. We only have one world, this world we live in, the one in which God finds us and loves us because of our longing for something beyond ourselves. Jesus does not expect us to be other than human but we are called to be people who walk in God's light.

Jesus became human in the chaos of our world. The risen Christ is with us now to show us how to navigate our way through God's world using love and compassion as our touchstones. So, as well as using our time to get ready for Christmas celebrations, let us not forget God's time and God's world and the impact our lives have upon its health and welfare.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 27th NOVEMBER 2022

Sentence

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

Isaiah 2:3a

Collect

**Eternal God, you give us this season
to make ourselves ready for the coming of your Son.
In this time of waiting and hoping, assist us to order our lives
so that we may be ready to welcome Jesus in the flesh.
Through Jesus Christ our Liberator,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

<u>1st Reading</u>	<i>Isaiah 2.1-5</i>
<u>2nd Reading</u>	<i>Romans 13.11-14</i>
<u>Gospel</u>	<i>Matthew 24.36-44</i>

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Church of Tanzania and for the residents and staff of Hodgson House.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, John Boyd, Dilly, Roger N, Eve, Angela R.

REMEMBRANCE TREE OF LIGHT

Sponsor a light in memory of a departed loved one and support *St John New Zealand (Ambulance Services)* and the *Church Hall Facilities Upgrade Fund*. A beautiful, lighted tree will stand in church from Advent Sunday, 27 November and through the Christmas period. Names of loved ones remembered will be displayed around the *Tree*. *Application forms are available in the foyer, from the Parish Office and on the website.*

PREPARATION FOR SELECTION OF A VICAR

Bishop Andrew would like to invite parishioners of the Anglican Parish of Ōtūmoetai to meet with him on Saturday 11 February 2023 from 1:30pm-3:00pm, for a Parish Consultation in preparation for the selection of a Vicar for the parish.

The Parish Consultation is an important opportunity for Bishop Andrew to hear from parishioners their thoughts on the life of the parish to aid the selection process. The kinds of topics that will be covered are: *What we value about our parish; What we do best; What we want to work towards; What characteristics we seek in a leader to help us fulfil these goals.*

The consultation will be led by Bishop Andrew and Archdeacon John Heberton and they encourage you to enter into the day having reflected on your knowledge of the history of the parish, your experience in the parish and your reflections on the general topics above. The afternoon will conclude with afternoon tea.

This Week Beginning: 28th November

Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
Thursday	1.00 pm	Books and Friends
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 4th December – Advent 2

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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