

Welcome! Haere mai!

## St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Advent Sunday

*Dear Friends*

Much has changed since last Advent, so we come to the season afresh, seeking sustenance after a difficult year and strength to face what is yet to come. We begin the season of Advent, and this new church year, by taking a deep breath. It is a time to be in touch with God, to think about our neighbour, to reflect upon creation.

The theme for this Sunday is hope. This week's readings call us to be open to God's coming at all times – including in our lives. They also invite us to recognise God's presence – God's coming – in the midst of the world's suffering and struggle. The Christian World Service Christmas Appeal, with today's focus on the *Cry for Climate Justice*, is one way to focus on how we might respond. Our readings remind us to be watchful, alert to the signs of the times. No matter what dangers lie ahead, God's promise is for justice and peace. This is the vision we must hold on to for ourselves and for our world.

Climate change is the biggest challenge we now face and the urgency of the climate emergency is something *The Pacific Conference of Churches* (PCC) know well. Climate change has been on their agenda for many years. Representatives took the voices of the people, the land and the sea to the COP26 (Conference of Parties). They campaigned tirelessly to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5° Celsius. Villages like Vunidogoloa were forced to move inland because of constant flooding. Fiji plans to move more than forty more coastal villages soon.

Who wants to see their homes washed into the sea or gardens drowned in salt water? Who wants to tell their mother or grandmother that they have no choice but to leave the land and sea that has been home for generations?

Last year the PCC started a Food Bank garden growing food to give away. This year it has bought 50 acres of land at Lawaki to expand the Food Bank concept. The farm will be completely off grid, using solar energy and water from a nearby creek. The initiative is called Lomana Na Vulagi (Love the Stranger) and will provide food for those in need, revenue for the PCC and an on-site eco-school for young Pacific people. The farm will involve women, young people and people with disabilities and use traditional agriculture and land management methods.

Our gifts to the CWS Christmas Appeal and our prayers and action for people living on the frontline of climate change can bring joy and justice this Christmas.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**Partner Story**      The Cry for Climate Justice.

The Pacific Ocean links us with many people and lands who are facing the immediate effects of rising global temperatures. Already people have had to move from their traditional whenua or land. Others are trying to cope with salty water and the lack of drinking water. The Pacific Conference of Churches has been relentless in voicing the cry of their people for climate justice. Like a canary in a mine, they have warned all people of the dangerous level of global warming in an effort to protect our common home for the unborn and future generations. *Let us pray for climate justice for all.*

### **Sentence**

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.

*Luke 21:28*

## Collect

**Lord God,  
prophets and scriptures prepare your way;  
open our minds to discern your purpose;  
turn us from all darkness;  
and prepare us for the coming of your light;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      *Jeremiah 33.14-16*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                      *1 Thessalonians 3.9-13*

**Gospel**                                *Luke 21.25-36*

## Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Church in Melanesia and for the people of the New Zealand Church Missionary Society. We pray for those ordained in the Diocese of Waiapu this weekend and for the parishes they serve: Deacon – Paul Leighton (Whakatane) and Sue Matthews (Cathedral); Priest – the Rev'd Keith Fischer (Taupō)

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, Shirley

**ADVENT** (*Assuming restrictions similar to present.*)

**The 'O' Antiphons: a reflection for Advent**  
*with images, words and music*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

5.00 pm in church

7.00 pm via Zoom

**Advent Conversations *The Art of Advent***

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

11.00 am in church

7.00 pm via Zoom

## **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 Sunday 28 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.*

### **This Week Beginning: 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**Monday** 9.00 am Walking Group

**Wednesday** 10.00 am Mid-week Eucharist

**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 5<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2**

8.30 am Holy Eucharist (church)

10.00 am Holy Eucharist (church)

5.00 pm Service of Reflection for Advent (church)

7.00 pm Service of Reflection for Advent (Zoom)

## **Contact Us**

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