

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 14 December 2025

Liturgy: p.404

Advent 3: Joy (Hari)

Luke 1: 47-55

Greetings:

At our mid-week service this week a cloud of young children (and some not so young) came along from our Playgroup, to hear once again the Christmas story and to sing the old favourites (I'm not sure who enjoys them more ... the children or their parents). I also read them a short poem/story about "a cow that's brown" and about how Jesus wasn't born in a stable! You'll hear more about that in the coming weeks.

Thank you very much to those who have made extra Christmas contributions to the Seafarers box in recent weeks. This Sunday is probably the last for those donations to be made available to those who will be at sea on the Day ... but there are always others who get as far as the Welfare Centre and who will appreciate the love and prayers we send via a box of chocolates!

By the way, if you are looking for a great Children's Bible for members of your family, I can strongly recommend *The Illustrated Children's Bible* published by North Parade Publishing. It's available at Whitcoulls for \$30. It contains about 300 OT and NT stories with great illustrations that open one story per page opening. I gave one to my eldest grandson about five years ago and he has read it/re-read it several times (so much so that his mother bought him a replacement one recently!)

Grace and peace,

Tony



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 14 December 2025

Sentence:

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:11

Collect:

Terror and doom, and wrath to come, John Your herald preached to bring us to repentance; open our eyes, almighty God, show us our sin, and grant us forgiveness. Hear this prayer for Your love's sake. Amen.

OT Reading *Isaiah 35: 1-10*

NT Reading *James 5: 7-10*

Gospel *Matthew 11: 2-11*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for Anglican Financial Care and for the people of the parish of Whakatane and their clergy.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Hazel, Lynda, Lawrence, Vaughan, Kathy, Joanna, Reg.

St Peter's Nine Lessons and Carols

Nine Lessons and Carols with Scholars Baroque will be held at St Peter's Anglican Church, Mount Maunganui. All are welcome.

7:30pm 21st December.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will close at 2pm on 19 December and will re-open on Tuesday 13 January.

St John's Anglican Church – Remembrance Tree of Light

Our Tree of Light symbolises hope even in the bleakest of times. Each light represents a loved one—family, friend, or colleague—who has died. The illuminated tree will be on display in the church from 1 December throughout the Christmas season, with the names of those remembered placed nearby. To add a name, please request a form from the parish office in person, by email, or by phone.

This Week Beginning: 15 December

Monday 10:00 am Lavender Craft Group

Wednesday 10:00 am Mid-week Communion

11:00 am Advent Study

Op Shop 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday

Playgroup 9:30 – 11:30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Toy Library 9:30 – 11:30 am Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 21 December -

9:30 am Holy Communion

4.00 pm Children's Carols

Christmas Services

Saturday 13 December: 5.00 pm Blue Christmas

Sunday 14 December: 5.00 pm Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday 21 December: 9.30am Holy Communion

4.00 pm Children's Carols

Christmas Eve: 8.00 pm Christmas Carols and Eucharist

Christmas Day: 9.30 am Christmas Eucharist

Contact Us

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