

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 1st May 2022
3rd Sunday of Easter

Gluten free communion wafers are available.

If you require one, please speak to one of the clergy before the service.

Dear Friends

All human beings have a need and capacity for worship. This instinct lies deep at the core of our lives.

As Sunday's passage from Revelation suggests, we are offered an opportunity to join 'every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them' in praising God. God who reaches out to all, including the least, the lost and the lonely. This goes right to the heart of the matter: worship is central to our identity and mission as God's people; it is worship that shapes the human community in response to the God of Jesus Christ.

In Sunday's vision from John of Patmos, we encounter every creature in heaven and earth and in all the seas singing together and worshipping God. This is the culmination of the gospel story. We see what God's final word will be – and it is not about division. The song this crowd sings is a new song, sung in full voice. Yet it is not exclusive; the celebration in these verses is entirely inclusive.

Worship starts in human wonder and culminates in hearing and following God's will. It starts with an awakening of our wonder at the sheer miracle of life. All this wonder we can bring into worship in our own church. Worship is our 'yes' to life and to God, in the midst of many voices that trouble us or tell us to keep quiet.

If worship begins in human wonder, it ends in holy obedience as we are encouraged to go out to love and serve the Lord. In between there is a journey and that journey includes, primarily, scripture and sacrament undergirded by prayer. Scripture is soul food and sacrament is soul music.

We need soul food to eat, regularly. The Bible was written by many different hands over a long period. It is a distinctly diverse and complex set of writings. Sometimes we find scripture comforting, sometimes disturbing, sometimes puzzling. One theologian called the Bible 'food for wrestlers'. Equally it's food for seekers, for followers, for scholars, for lovers and, of course, it is important material for preachers who do their best to interpret Scripture from its ancient context and help us see that the same human themes are at work in our lives today.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 1st MAY 2022

Sentence

To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever.

Revelation 5:13

Collect

**Alleluia, God Eternal,
Jesus restored disheartened friends
at breakfast on the beach.
Alert us to your presence,
restore us when we falter or despair,
and let us always hope in you;
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**

1st Reading Acts 9.1-6

2nd Reading Revelation 5.11-14

Gospel John 21.1-19

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the people of Fiji and for Archbishops Philip Richardson and Don Tamihere.

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

FISH n CHIPS and GAMES

Looking for companionship and fun? Come along for lunch and an afternoon of games and chat. A chance to meet new people and have some fun. We'll organise the Fish and Chips and the Games.

1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons in each month at 12.00pm in the Church lounge, commencing Tuesday 3rd May

\$10 fee includes lunch and afternoon tea.

Please tell Lynda (576 9923) or Shelley (027 714 3534) you're coming.

BOOKS AND FRIENDS

a new book club is starting on the 5th May

Open to bookworms who would like to make new friends as well as enjoy a chat over a cup of tea and a shared plate.

1st Thursday of each month in the Church lounge: 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Fee \$3.00 per month

Please tell Lynda (576 9923) or Shelley (027 714 3534) you're coming.

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be **Stars**. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **4th July 2022**. Remember that, to keep readers' attention, your articles should not be too long (*up to around 700 words*).

This Week Beginning: 2nd May

Tuesday	12.00 pm	Fish n Chips and Games in the lounge
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
Thursday	1.00 pm	Books and Friends in the lounge
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
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 8th May – Easter 4

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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