

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 11th October 2026

Liturgy: p456

OT 28

Psalm 106:1-6,19-23

Greetings

A warm welcome to the Ven. Christopher Tweddell, our Archdeacon, who is preaching and presiding today. Here are a few thoughts from John about our readings.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus keeps poking the bear and ramping up the tension with the privileged, landowning Jerusalem Temple elite. This tense conversation started when they demanded to know who gave him the authority to do *all* these things—teaching, healing, forgiving sins, and flipping over the money changers' tables. Jesus links his authority back to John the Baptist and then launches into a few stories about sons and vineyard tenants who don't pay rent – they know what to do with them. And now an utterly absurd parable about a king and a wedding feast. Seriously, who turns down a weeklong party with the best food and wine?

To get what's going on here, we have to keep the Sermon on the Mount in mind, along with the parables of the lost sheep and the vineyard workers. The Kingdom of Heaven is for the poor and vulnerable. Jesus is genuinely angry at leaders who use their religious authority to line their own pockets while completely neglecting their duties as stewards of God's mysteries. This is Jesus the prophet, speaking truth to the powerful.

Luke tells a similar story, but with a few big differences. Check it out. We usually read this thinking the king represents God. But this king acts a lot more like Herod or Caesar than the God of the Beatitudes. The first half is packed with insurrection and violence. In fact, it sounds exactly like what Rome did during the Jewish uprising, which Matthew's community have just lived through. Is this really what God's kingdom is

like? Or is Jesus holding up a mirror to show how the Jerusalem elite live out God's reign?

The story finishes with an open invite to everyone, good and bad alike. This feels much more like the Kingdom Jesus lived out. But then, one person gets thrown out for not wearing the right wedding clothes—which is a tough ask if you're poor and only own one set of clothes! Some suggest this "clothing" really means wrapping yourself in the core values of Mosaic Law, the prophets, and Jesus's own life: divine mercy, generosity, *shalom*, and *aroḥa*. Missing out on these is what leads to the outer darkness.

We see the exact same struggle in our Exodus story. God's people use their Egyptian plunder to make a golden calf—a god they can touch and tame. It's hard to let go of what you know, even if what you knew was slavery. It is tough to live in response to an untouchable, uncontrollable God of mercy, generosity, *shalom*, and *aroḥa*.

These aren't easy stories. What do you reckon Jesus is trying to tell us in all of this?

John Hebert TSSF.

Naming people in the prayers

Those who have done the Safeguarding training will know that the privacy laws means that we cannot include people in the list of people we pray for unless we have the permission of the person first. While most people are very happy to be named, some are not, and we need to check first. So, if you know someone is sick or needs prayer, and you would like them prayed for by name, please ask them first.

I wish to make a complaint

If you have something you would like to complain about something, please talk to John (Priest in charge) or Roger or Angela (the Wardens). It's our job to listen and is important we hear your thoughts. Erica and Lynda are not paid to listen to your complaints, so please don't complain to them. You can also tell us about good things if you want. Thank you.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 11th October 2026

Sentence:

Forgetting what lies behind and straining for what lies ahead, let us press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13b–14

Collect:

Living host,
call us together,
call us to eat and drink with you.
Grant that by your body and your blood
we may be drawn to each other and to you.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

OT Reading *Exodus 32:1-14*

NT Reading *Philippians 4:1-9*

Gospel *Matthew 22:1-14*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the staff and board members of Anglican Missions, we give thanks for the faithful work this organisation does in partnership with parishes, rohe, individuals, and the Church around the world. Also, we pray for the people of the Clive Co-operating parish.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, Lynda, Lawrence, Reg, Angela R, Robyn, Vaughan.

New Vicar – You Are Invited

A service to install Rev'd Andrea Jerry Ryan as Vicar will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 14 November. More details to follow. Please save the date.

Remembering Tarore of Ngāti Haua

Tarore was a 12-year-old girl of Ngāti Haua who was killed on 19 October 1836. You are warmly invited to her gravesite, 229 Dunlop Road, Waharoa, at 3pm on Sunday 18 October, to hear her powerful story and commemorate the 190th anniversary of her death. You may have noticed copies of the book that tells her story in our foyer.

Christmas Potluck Lunch

Save the date – Saturday 5th December there will be a Potluck Christmas Lunch held at St John's. The St John's Singers will provide entertainment for the event.

This Week Beginning: 11th October 2026

Tuesday	3:15 pm Communion at Matua Radius 7:00 pm Women's Fellowship
Wednesday	10:00 am Mid-week Communion 2:00 pm SAYGo in the Hall
Friday	9:30 am Senior Chef
Sunday	9:30 am Holy Communion

Op Shop	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Mon-Fri, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Sat
Playgroup	9:30am – 11:30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	
Toy Library	9:30am – 11:30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	

Contact Us

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