

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 16th August 2026

Liturgy: p404

OT 20

Psalm 133

Greetings all:

Last week, I compared our current uncertain church climate to the disciples battling a storm at sea. Our readings this week invite us to trust in God's abundance in all this uncertainty.

Matthew 15:10-28 looks back to Jesus living God's abundant generosity in feeding the 5000+. It begins with Jesus teaching that keeping rules for their own sake or to receive a reward is not what those rules are about. but what they reveal about our hearts. This is put to the test when an outsider Gentile woman approaches Jesus. Despite not being a Jew her persistent love for her daughter drives her to confront Jesus with her unwavering trust that he could heal her. And many would say she taught him that there is more than enough grace for both the House of Israel and those seen as dogs, and he was more than he realised.

Meanwhile, Paul explores how the split Gentile and Jewish churches in Rome can work together by trusting God's faithfulness. He confronts two competing groups who each believe they have the only right way, urging them both to be humble. Paul reminds them, and us, that none of us know it all; our faith is entirely about God's freely offered mercy rather than our own knowledge or actions.

Finally, Psalm 67 invites us to recognize and receive God's unearned abundant grace. During these uncertain times God's gracious activity is all around us. Let us be like that un-named woman and be persistent and unwavering in our trust, that we may be icons of God's ongoing blessing helping all we meet know that they too are blessed.

John Hebert TSSF.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 16 August 2026

Sentence:

Thus says the Lord, 'Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.' *Isaiah 56:1*

Collect

**Come Holy Spirit with new fire;
when our prayers seem to fail,
when we hear no voice nor any answer,
rouse us and light our way.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.**

OT Reading *Genesis 45:1-15*

NT Reading *Romans 11:1-2a,29-32*

Gospel *Matthew 15: 10-28*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the New Zealand Church Missionary Society who have been sending missionaries since 1892, and we pray for the Opotiki Parish.

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

Church Working Bee

It's been a long time since we've had a church working bee, so we're looking forward to coming together to give our buildings a good spruce up!

Please join us on Saturday 12th September 2026, starting at 10.30am. All the jobs will be indoors, with a variety of cleaning and tidying tasks to suit different abilities.

Whether you can spare an hour or stay longer, your help would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work, and it's a great opportunity to enjoy some company while caring for our church.

Team Red Bonnie 50



In August, Bonnie Heberton is giving her 50th donation — and she's inviting YOU to join her!

Never given blood? Now's the time to become a life-saving donor.

Bonnie's 49 donations have helped save approximately 147 lives.

When booking, mention **Team Red Bonnie 50** so we can keep a tally.

Call 0800 448 325 to book or check your eligibility.

Bring your friends and family — can we find **50 extra donors in August?**

This Week Beginning: 17th August

Monday 10:00 am Lavender Craft Group

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 Monday to Friday

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday

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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