

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 6th November 2022
OT 32 / 3rd Sunday before Advent

Dear Friends

I wonder if you ever saw the wonderful film made of Noel Coward's play, *Blithe Spirit*, in which Margaret Rutherford played a slightly mad spiritualist medium. In a nutshell, it was about a man who is haunted by the ghosts of both his previous wives. It's that kind of sitcom situation which the Sadducees place before Jesus. They are trying to make the idea of eternal life look absurd.

In effect, Jesus' response says 'yes' eternal life understood like that is nonsense because eternal life is not more of the same, not an eternity of the crises, choices and embarrassments of this life. Thinking about eternal life in that way suggests that the promise and hope of eternal life is really about us whereas it is actually about God.

Eternal life is being alive to God *here and now* and *hereafter*. In the story to which Jesus refers, God declares that he is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God's relationship with each of them is without end because God is without end. To God, they are all alive. And that is the heart of our own faith in eternal life. The key point is that the God in whom we believe, is a God who never lets go of us.

Our hope of eternal life rests on what we believe about God. That God – in creating us – breathes life into us, something of God's own life. And once that life has been breathed into us, God will always regard us as alive and always hold us in love. So too the faithful departed: because they were alive to God, they kindled the flames of faith in us and passed on that hope of eternal life.

Our good news for the world is in living lives that are in touch with God, that look as if something of God's own nature has been breathed into us, something of God's own passion for forgiveness and reconciliation, something of God's own unqualified reckless generosity, something of God's own readiness to stand with the suffering, the forgotten, the poor. That's the life we see lived out in Jesus in his death and resurrection. When our lives show that, they show eternal life because they show who God is, the life of God that will never die.

When we receive the bread and the wine of Holy Communion it is to deepen and recreate in us the relationship we have with the life God has breathed into us. It is to have the seed of Christ sown in us. It is to anticipate the life of heaven. The world we are in is a chilly world which needs the fire of God's love. It is that world in which we seek to show what eternal life is now as we show who God is in our lives.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 6th November 2022

Sentence

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11:25-26

Collect

**God of new beginnings,
you hold life and death in your hands;
may our hope in your power and love
strengthen us to live creatively,
not fearing the future,
but knowing that in the end all shall be well;
through the Risen Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

1st Reading

Job 19.23-27a

2nd Reading

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-17

Gospel

Luke 20.27-38

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Anglican Church in Melanesia and we give thanks that the Diocese is praying for our parish.

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

We pray for the recently departed: Phyll Walton, and we pray for all who mourn her loss.

Word and Light OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The theme for the next edition will be **Saints and Christmas**. Articles on other topics are also welcome. Photos add interest. Please send your contributions to Lynda, the Parish Administrator, by **15th November 2022**.

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 Advent Sunday, 27 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.*

SERVICE OF ADVENT CAROLS & READINGS

We hope you will be able to join us for our special service of Advent Carols and Readings which will be on **Advent Sunday 27th November** at 5.00pm.

This Week Beginning: 7th November

Tuesday	7.00 pm	AAW meeting in the lounge
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	1.00 pm	Funeral for Phyll Walton
	3.00 pm	Radius Matua Communion
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	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 13th November– OT 29

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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