

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

## **St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai**



**Sunday 15 November 2020**  
**OT 33 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

### *Dear Friends*

Sunday's scriptures may seem harsh in tone but please don't be put off! There is more to them than might first appear and they lead us to be alert to what's going on in our own lives and times.

Jesus tells the parable of the talents during what we now call Holy Week. It is sometimes suggested that Jesus is talking about what we'd call God-given talents. But I don't think this is about being able to sing or paint or preach. Neither is it about acquiring monetary wealth or investing our pensions wisely. I also don't think it is a straightforward message about giving more money to the church or charity – although that action may be one result of our reflection upon its deeper meaning. This parable is more difficult than that.

How we read this parable should affect how we live and so it repays further thought. Where are we in this story? With which character do we most readily sympathise? And where is God in all this? The master in the parable is often interpreted as an allegorical figure representing God but this not a loving, forgiving, merciful master. On the contrary, he is harsh, exacting, greedy, at least according to the third slave. Whatever our view of God, it is hard not to sympathise with the third slave in the parable: he seems so hard done by. What happens to the third slave anticipates the story told in the chapter of Matthew that follows this parable. It is the story of Good Friday, the story of another servant who speaks truth to power and who is broken, rejected, cast out and punished by those in power.

One way of making sense of the parable of the talents is to say that, through it, Jesus shows us what the Kingdom of God will *not* be like. The master's values are the very opposite of the kingdom values that Jesus invites us to embrace. It can be seen as an enigmatic parable that surprises and unsettles us and sabotages our preconceptions.

Since the appearance of Lord, in the person of Jesus, the challenge has been, and still is, to discern how the life of Christ affects our lives; to see the face of Christ in the people we encounter, not least those not like us; and to look for the values of the kingdom in all the dilemmas that confront us individually, as a society and on a world scale. *Every day is the day of the Lord's appearing.*

Arohanui

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

### **Sentence**

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.

*1 Thessalonians 5:9, 11*

### **Collect**

**God our creator,  
you entrust each of us with great treasure.  
Help us to be responsible stewards  
of the gifts and skills you have given us.  
May we honour the trust you have in us  
and use our talents as generously as you have given them.  
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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

*Zephaniah 1.7,12-18*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5.1-11*

## Gospel

*Matthew 25.14-30*

## Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the people of the Reporoa Cooperating Parish and their clergy, and for Tikanga Māori delegates of the Anglican Indigenous Network.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Cherie, Phyllis, Ron & Sue, Norman & Dinah, Tania & Garry, Mike & Rachael, Craig.

## LAVENDER CRAFT GROUP MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

Meet at Barbara Steele's, 27c Te Koah Place (ph. 578 2642).

## ORDINATION AS PRIEST OF THE REV'D SUE GENNER

Sue will be ordained priest in Napier Cathedral at 1pm on Saturday 28 November. All are welcome. Please let Lynda know if you are able to offer a lift to others or would like a lift if any are available.

## ADVENT CONVERSATIONS: LIVING IN HOPE

Our Advent Conversations will offer the opportunity to think about what it means to live well and to die well. We are people of history and people of hope. We look back to see where we have come from and we look forward in hope to what lies ahead.

The sessions will be on Wednesdays: 25<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00 am or 7.00 pm. If you are interested in participating please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. *Leaflets giving more details are available in the foyer.*

## NEXT PARISH MAGAZINE – YOUR ARTICLES PLEASE

The theme will be **Christmas**: this could be something about what Christmas means to you, memories of Christmas past or hopes for this Christmas. Contributions to Lynda by **7 December** please.

## SERVICE OF ADVENT CAROLS & READINGS

We hope you will be able to join us for our service of Advent Carols & Readings which will be on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at 5.00pm.

## LAVENDER CRAFT GROUP MORNING TEA

Please join us for the annual craft sale & morning tea – on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December** from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Admission will be \$6.00. There will be a gift table with great gifts for Christmas.

### **This Week Beginning: 16<sup>th</sup> November**

<b>Monday</b>	9.00 am	Walking Group
	10.00 am	Lavender Craft Group meet
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
	4.00 pm	Music group practice
<b>Op Shop</b>	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
<b>Playgroup</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
<b>Toy Library</b>	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

### Services for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Christ the King

*Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46*

8.30 am Holy Eucharist      10.00 am Holy Eucharist

### Contact Us

<b>Vicar:</b>	The Reverend Sue Beverly	
<b>Ph:</b>	576 9923 or Vicarage 570 0424 or 021 432 365	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:sue.beverly@waiapu.com">sue.beverly@waiapu.com</a>	
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Lynda Wallace	
<b>Ph:</b>	576 9923	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com">admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com</a>	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stjohns-tga.org.nz">www.stjohns-tga.org.nz</a>	
<b>Wardens:</b>	Viv Heimann	576 6097
	Bill Aldridge	576 5789