

Welcome! Haere mai!

## St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**  
**OT 33 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

### *Dear Friends*

There was a phrase commonly used in the time of Jesus – ‘the end of the age’ – it is referred to in the Bible. We may think this means ‘the end of the world’, but in fact it usually doesn’t. It’s highly likely that Luke’s readers had already lived through ‘the end of the age’. They had seen the Jewish Temple reduced to a pile of rubble and the city of Jerusalem destroyed by Roman armies. They believed that the Temple was a sign of God’s presence among them and that God would protect Jerusalem from the pagans. These events must have shaken their faith to the core. What had happened to God’s promises to care?

Sunday’s Gospel passage starts with Jesus’ prediction about the destruction of the Temple. The disciples were shocked. We might conclude that Jesus is saying that, when these things happen, they’re signs of the end of the world. But that is *not* what he says. In effect, he says that this is the context in which we live and the context in which we are called to live and to follow him. Jesus predicted grief for his followers but, if they found themselves in trouble, it didn’t mean that God had deserted them. The Christian response wasn’t to give up in despair but to continue to testify to their faith in Jesus.

When *our* world seems to be falling apart, what can we count on? People have always been predicting that the end is nigh. Many early Christians believed the final judgment and the second coming would take place during their lifetime and Paul addressed this belief with great urgency.

If we look around us now, just as in times past, it would be easy to see those same portents of chaos – be it war, global financial instability, the exploitation and destruction of the planet, rising sea levels, natural disasters. Are these not real warnings that the end could be nigh unless we choose another path? Nations divided against themselves cannot stand. When will Jesus come again?

But what if Jesus is already here now, how then shall we live? The late Swiss theologian Karl Barth argued that there is only *one* coming of Jesus – and that in threefold form. Barth argued that the resurrection of Jesus at Easter, the imparting of the Holy Spirit to the church and the general resurrection at the end of time are three forms of the same event. They not three separate events. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has already taken place and he is with us now. We live *now* in the light of Christ's resurrection. It is now, when we do not know what the future holds, when the destruction of the world is not an act of God's vengeance but the likely consequence of our human pride and godless ways, it is now that faith can be our salvation.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### **Sentence**

May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.

*2 Thessalonians 3:16*

### **Collect**

**God our end,  
as the sun of righteousness rises with healing in its wings,  
save us in our time of trial,  
so that we do not succumb,  
but endure in your eternal embrace;  
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**

*Malachi 4.1-2a*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

*2 Thessalonians 3.6-13*

**Gospel**

*Luke 21.5-19*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for Anglican Missions volunteers and for the St John Chaplains in the Diocese of Waiapu.

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

### **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 **15<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> November** at 5.00pm.

## **This Week Beginning: 14<sup>th</sup> November**

<b>Tuesday</b>	12.00 pm	Fish n Chips and Games
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
<b>Friday</b>	9.00 am	Senior Chef
<b>Op Shop</b>	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
<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 20<sup>th</sup> November – Christ the King**

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

## **Contact Us**

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