

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 14th November 2021
OT 33 / 2nd Sunday before Advent

Dear Friends

Has there been a time in your life when your foundations have been rocked, when something happened that completely altered the way you see things? Many people took that view when the planes flew into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York in September 2001. US self-confidence had been high but afterwards people said things like ‘the world will never be the same again’.

In common speech the word ‘apocalyptic’ refers to something involving widespread devastation or a feeling of ultimate doom. In the Bible we have ‘apocalyptic’ literature which has the theme of trauma and end times. The second half of the Book of Daniel is apocalyptic in nature as is Sunday’s short passage from Mark’s Gospel. The message we get is that the past is no guide to the future.

Jesus was very astute about events and people. He warned against the wrong sort of spirituality and the wrong sort of treasure. He warned people to be careful in the assumptions they make about the true scale of values. We are not good at taking notice of these messages. For to discover and hold to the truth and value of things is a spiritual quest: a demanding one, often involving self-discipline and abstention from indulgence whereby we are formed in faith and hope.

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus: ‘what is truth?’ Can we answer that? Not definitively. Not in words. But one way of describing a life well lived would be to describe it as an attempt to see, feel, touch, hear and

share truth. All our dealings with truth must be tentative. We know our capacity to be wrong. We must be on guard against the insidious effects of the current epidemic of disinformation and conspiracy theories on social media. Yet we also know that to give up on truth is to give up on life and to undermine our capacity to live with integrity today and tomorrow and, even more, it destroys our capacity to hope. To think of the Truth with a capital T seems at best improbable, at worst impossible. That is why Jesus, like the prophets before him – and after him – attacked so savagely the vain and unreliable things on which people place their hopes.

One thing is certain, change will continue to happen to us and around us: in our personal lives, in the parish, in our community and nationally and internationally. Our best approach is to embrace God's future positively and graciously – making our contribution in truth, love and peace – and remembering that the word of the Lord and the love of Christ endure for ever.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 14th NOVEMBER 2021

Sentence

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed. *1 Samuel 2:10*

Collect

**God of ages, in Jesus Christ you set a corner stone
and a strong foundation;
you are the true and living way.
May we stand firm in the face of all
that shakes our foundations,
certain in the knowledge of your love.
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**

1st Reading *Daniel 12.1-3*

2nd Reading *Hebrews 10.11-14,19-25*

Gospel *Mark 13.1-8*

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the New Zealand Church Missionary Society and for the people of the Edgcumbe-Kawerau Parish and their Ministry Support Team.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Sandi H, Colin

ADVENT (*Assuming restrictions similar to present.*)

Advent Service of Reflection: Sunday 5th December

5.00 pm in church (*register with the Parish Office*)

7.00 pm via Zoom

Advent Conversations *The Art of Advent*

Wednesday 8th and Wednesday 15th December

Discussion sessions are usually in church at 11.00am and 7.00pm. At present, it is not clear whether this will be possible. It may be that one session is offered in church and one via Zoom. So we can decide whether to proceed, please let the Vicar or Parish Administrator know if you are interested in attending and whether you would prefer (a) morning or afternoon (b) in church or via Zoom.

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 Sunday 28 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.*

This Week Beginning: 15th November

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Service of the Word
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the Hall
	4.00 pm	Music Group practice
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 21st November – OT 34 / Christ the King

8.30 am	Service of the Word	(Church)
10.00 am	Service of the Word	(Zoom)

Contact Us

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