

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 22nd November 2020
Sunday next before Advent / Christ the King

Dear Friends

Today is the last Sunday in the Church year. We keep it as the Feast of Christ the King. The year that begins in Advent, with the promise of the coming, now culminates in the proclamation of Christ's universal sovereignty. What, realistically, might that convey to us and to others?

The author of the letter to the Ephesians writes 'I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom...' He talks, too, of 'the working of his great power' and of God putting that power to work in Christ. The words 'power' and 'glory' are clearly intended to have a positive impact but both have uncomfortable connotations and proclaiming God or Christ's 'power and glory', especially in relation to kingship, may be misleading.

'Glory' is often associated with vanity or wealth and to glorify something as being to gloat – not attractive qualities. Likewise, power. It's a word frequently linked with abuse, with domination of the strong over less strong and as something wielded at the expense of others. So, what is God's power and glory working in Christ?

In the Book of Exodus, we hear Moses say to God 'Please show me your glory'. The Hebrew word for glory means the weight or value of something. So 'the glory of God' means God's weight or worth: God's true self, God's true being, what shines out of God so we can see it. The glory that is God, but which we often find so hard to grasp and articulate, is focused in Jesus and in each and every person, every one made in the image of God.

We can find the glory of God revealed in human society. Human communities are complex organisms often beset by problems and suffering – violence, poverty, homelessness, pollution – as the news frequently reminds us. But in human communities we also find extraordinary examples of love and support one for another. At our best we know that in community we belong to each other and in that knowledge lies glory – not in vanity, greed or wealth.

God's power is not meant to keep people down but to build them up. It's meant not to punish but to challenge. It's meant not for the few but for all people. Some expressions of power are used to destroy and we see power being misused all around us. But the power of God, as expressed in Christ and highlighted on this Sunday, when we face the paradox of 'Christ the King', is the power to integrate, to nurture and to serve in selfless love.

Arohanui

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 22nd NOVEMBER 2020

Sentence

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.

Psalms 100:1

Collect

**God of majesty and glory, you reign over all.
In the midst of the powers and principalities of this world,
give us clarity to swear our allegiance
to the only true sovereign,
to care for the least of our sisters and brothers
and to dedicate our lives to the coming of your kingdom.
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

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

2nd Reading

Ephesians 1.15-23

Gospel

Matthew 25.31-46

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for Hui Amorangi ki Te Manawa o te Wheke, and rohe of Ngati Porou, Turanga/Whangara, Kahungunu ki te Wairoa, and for the Church of Pakistan.

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

WORSHIP ON ADVENT SUNDAY – 29th NOVEMBER

Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the new church year and is a 5th Sunday this year. We will worship as one congregation at 10.00am (there will be no 8.30am service). This will also be the day after Sue Genner's ordination as priest and she will preside at the Eucharist for the first time. This will be a special occasion in many ways.

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.

The sessions will be on Wednesdays: 25th November and 2nd, 9th, 16th 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 and Readings which will be on **Sunday 6th December** at 5.00pm.

LAVENDER CRAFT GROUP MORNING TEA

Please join us for the annual craft sale & morning tea – on **Monday 7th 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: 23rd November

Monday	9.00 am	Walking Group
Tuesday	7.00pm	Vestry in the church alcove
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	11.00 am	Advent Conversations (Session 1)
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
	4.00 pm	No Music Group practice
	7.00pm	Advent Conversations (Session 1)
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 29th November – Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

No 8.30 service 10.00 am Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

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