

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

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



**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**  
**OT 34 / Sunday next before Advent**  
**Christ the King**

### *Dear Friends*

In the time of Jesus, the ruling monarch of Rome had absolute power on earth and was worshipped as a son of the gods. The Jews of Jesus' time continued to long for the day that a messiah would come to deliver them from oppression and to restore the fortunes of Israel. No wonder the Roman overlords and King Herod, their vassal king, viewed potential usurpers with extreme caution.

It is into this political turmoil and intense zeal that Jesus was born – and crucified at the age of 33. Jesus, a poor carpenter and itinerant preacher from a small town, could hardly be thought of as a king. Yet for a moment, his followers dared to dream that he might be the long-awaited messiah. There was nothing regal about him at all. During his first 30 years, he shared the daily life and work of an ordinary home. For the next three years, he went about teaching people about God and healing the sick. He called 12 ordinary men to be his helpers. His followers were from the lowest classes of society.

Crucifixion was a truly barbaric form of punishment reserved for the lowest classes of criminals and traitors. The sign on the cross, proclaiming Jesus as 'the King of the Jews' was not honorific, rather it was meant as an insult. To the average person, Jesus was no king, but a man whose life and ministry was cut short. So, 'Christ the King' is a title that is very surprising – there are no descriptions of Jesus which have any of the characteristics which we usually associate with kings.

In our world today there are very many earthly leaders who destroy life not only literally but also by policies which are – for example – racist, nationalistic, anti-democratic, homophobic and divisive in other ways. Christ does not destroy, scatter and divide. Rather, Jesus heals, repairs, gathers and unites everyone and everything. We are called to follow Christ's radical way of serving rather than being served and to follow his example as faithful witnesses to love, truth and peace. We live by the belief that for something to be true, loving and peaceful, it must lead to the equality and flourishing of all before God.

From Jesus we learn that we are all God's infinitely precious children and we should treat one another with love, respect and forgiveness. Jesus lived out what he taught by caring for those he met and by forgiving those who put him to death. Jesus' actions alone wouldn't have led him to a criminal's death: but his teaching challenged the religious and moral beliefs of his day. People believed, and still believe, that he can lead us to a full experience of God's love and compassion.

Arohanui,

*Sue (Vicar)*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### **Sentence**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

*Zechariah 9:9*

### **Collect**

**Christ who reigns,  
you care for the least amongst us,  
give us courage to enact your gospel in all the world,  
that all people may see your glory.  
For you are alive and reign with the Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever. Amen.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      *Jeremiah 23.1-6*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                      *Colossians 1.11-20*

**Gospel**                                *Luke 23.33-43*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for coordinators and volunteers of the Refugee Settlement Programme and for the people of the Gate Pa Parish and their clergy.

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

We pray for the departed: Nancy and for those who mourn.

### **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: 21<sup>st</sup> November**

<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	Vestry meeting in the alcove
<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 27<sup>th</sup> November – Advent Sunday**

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist
5.00 pm	Advent Carol Service

## **Contact Us**

<b>Vicar:</b>	The Reverend Sue Beverly	
<b>Ph:</b>	576 9923 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>	Bill Aldridge	021 982 984
	Roger Clark	027 683 8466