



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 23 November 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time with us.

Today's theme: "Reign of Christ"

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Other Readings: Ephesians 15-23



The parable of the final judgment draws together key images used throughout the scriptures. Shepherd, ruler, judge, and cosmic culmination test the perceptions of those who hear. This passage has been used to identify those who are in and those who are ultimately out of the arena of God's effective will, not part of God's kingdom. Is it possible that there is no place beyond the arena of God's activity, and that one celebrated with such joy, by psalmist, prophet, and in the letter to the Ephesians, judges in completely unexpected ways?

"When he sits on his throne, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 30 November

Theme: "Waiting – Finding Meaning"

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Other Readings: Mark 13:24-37; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Prayer points: Please pray for: Margaret Morrison's 'recovery and successful surgery and a good outcome'; Ron Ashton, and Christine Lewis' family on the death of their dad.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Advent – dancing into the Promise This year St John's Worship Committee has chosen to replace the 48-hours of prayer that we traditionally hold towards the end of November with a time of directed meditation and prayer that you can undertake in your home. You are invited as a St John's church member to participate in this activity between December 8 and December 14, the second week of Advent. Each day during this week you are invited to set aside approximately 20-30 minutes at a time that suits you to sit quietly to contemplate the messages of Christmas, to consider the material we have provided as a stimulus for meditation and to respond to the prayer focus for the day. Resource material will be available on Sundays November 30 and December 7.

Children's and Youth Leader: Leadership Team believes we need to share with everyone the possibility of an application for this part-time position. We will let everyone know if it moves beyond an expression of interest. As a reminder to us all, the decision was taken to offer this position on a financial faith basis. The Thanksgiving Offering of about \$ 3000.00 means we have a start of funding, and we have a regular giver tithing a proportion to the faith offering. I think our supporting this starts with our prayers for the Leadership Team in their decision making. Blessings Lorraine

Christmas Fellowship Lunch 12 noon Ara Tai Café, Half Moon Bay, Frid. 5 Dec. Please put your name/s on the list in the Foyer. PLEASE ALSO BRING A PRESENT COSTING NO MORE THAN \$2.00 (unwrapped). So put your thinking caps on. We will put them in the All Saints Food Basket. Doesn't have to be food though. Loas Toun

60th Jubilee –St Columba at Botany. When: Today, Sunday 23rd November at 10am. Where: 480 Ti Rakau Drive, Botany. Join this service of celebration followed by a shared lunch. All welcome! More details [here](#).

St Andrews Big Band Swinging and Jingling a celebration of a popular swing and classical hits along with a few jazzed-up festive favourites. 2 Performances Sat 13 December 3pm and 730pm St Andrews Church Centre 11 Vincent Street Howick, ph 5354403 Tickets \$10

Real Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (16th November) John's guest will be former Governor-General, Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright.

Inspirational TV:- Sometimes our choices can strongly affect others. Jesus reminds us in the gospel that these choices will be with us at the last judgement. What is your choice? Ponder on this as you watch this week's clips. See www.inspirationaltv.net.

FAMILY BARBECUE The Leadership Team has decided to hold a "Family Barbecue" before Christmas. The "Family" we have in mind is the community who use our buildings through the year - Kindergarten, Mainly Music, our Korean friends etc. etc. and all their families. We want to make a time to meet them, get to know them, thank them for the rent they pay us and in an informal setting be the Gospel. No preaching - just invite them to our Christmas services. To make this work it is vital that you, the congregations of St Johns, are there to be the hosts. Bring your own family. The date and time is the afternoon of the first Sunday in December, **Sunday the 7th of December at 4pm**. Put it in your diary and pray for a fine day.

Helper's needed- set-up from 3pm

Servers - salads and soft drinks

Supervisors for children's play

Hand-out flyers for our Christmas services

Clean-up

Also donations, salads, sausages will reduce costs

Talk to Bob W. Thankyou

Pilgrim Productions is pleased to tell you they are presenting the much loved Christmas Operetta, **Amadl and the Night Visitors**, for two nights only in December. More details on the flyer [here](#). This short (just one hour) musical story is suitable for the whole family and they offer it for the Christmas season as we get ready to celebrate Christ's birth. They warmly invite you to bring this production to the attention of your parishes.

Transpose –the colour games. When: Saturday 6th December 12 -6pm. Where: Bruce Pulman Park, Papakura. More details: www.transpose.org.nz

News on our Website: The St John's website (www.stjohnsbb.org.nz) has attracted considerable interest from the community. Stephen Chaplin, who designed the website, has provided us with the details of the number of times each of the main web pages have been viewed by internet visitors. Have a look some time soon. You can read all recent sermons at your leisure!

Web Page	No. of hits	Web Page	No. of hits
Our Leadership	766	Facilities	459
Mainly Music at St Johns	588	Youth Group	457
Our History	581	Giving	446
Little Acorns & Children's Church	565		444
Pastoral Care	533	Our Vision	
Groups using St.Johns	489	4eva @ 6	419
Weddings	475	Home Groups	411
Facilities	459	Newsletter 02-Mar-2014	404
Sermons	392	Baptism	400
		Regular Services	394