



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 30 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 “Waiting – Finding Meaning”

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Other Readings: Mark 13: 24-27



This scripture arises out of a context of loss, disorientation, and disillusionment of a people returning from exile in Babylon. This place of holy memory seems devoid of God. The theological map of the scriptures, which had once sustained them, no longer consoles or guides. The sense of grief, longing and despair, a place where something is not right is palpable. Facing an upside-down world, the people wait in hope for the realm of God to break through into their lives decisively and dramatically.

Isaiah 64: 1-9 (NIV)

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 7 December

Theme follows the traditional Lessons and Carols Service

Focus Scripture: The Bible story in 8 lessons

Other Readings:

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

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 Toung

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 7.30pm St Andrews Church Centre, 11 Vincent Street Howick, ph 5354403 Tickets \$10.

Real Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (30 November) John's guest will be natural alternatives commentator, Wendy Nissen.

Inspirational TV There is a lot to be said for making choices slowly and on reflection. Try it and you might find you make different choices **www.inspirationaltv.net**:

A message of thanks is on the column in the foyer from Brian and Janetta Mandeno.

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

Christmas Calendar for St Johns sharing December!

Fri 5th 12 noon - Fellowship Lunch@ Ara Tai

Fri 5th 7:00 pm - Last Youth Group meeting for 2014

Sun 7th 9:30 am - Carols & Lessons shared with our Mandarin Fellowship

Sun 7th 4:00 pm - Family BBQ – all of us coming ☺

Thurs 11th – 4:00 pm - Church Decorating – all help appreciated

Sun 14th 9:30 am - Children's Church Nativity Service

Tues 16th 6:00 pm - Carol Singing, a delightful and fun evening, bring a supper plate.

Sun 21st 9:30 am Worship

7:00 pm - Blue Service

Weds 24th 7:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service

10:30 pm Carol Singing

11:00 pm Worship on Christmas Eve

Thurs 25th 9:30 am Worship on Christmas Day

Sun 28th 9:30 am Worship

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