



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 1 March 2015

“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: “All for Love”

Focus Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Other Readings: Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4: 13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9



BACKGROUND

This week's readings talk of faith. Christian understandings of faith have been cut off from Creation, since the influence of Greek thought, and its separation of spirit and matter, strengthened by the Enlightenment and rise of scientific thinking. Faith in God may challenge our rational minds, but God's inclusive love nourishes our hearts and souls.

The Covenant of Circumcision When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty^[a]; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram^[b]; your name will be Abraham,^[c] for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 8 March 2015

Theme: "The Wonders of God"

Focus Scripture: Psalm 19

Other Readings: Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Prayer points: Please pray for: School and University children returning to school. Ron Ashton, Margaret Morrison.

Fellowship Lunch at KITCHENETTE, This Tuesday 3 March next to Westpac in Highland Park. 12 noon. Bring your friends. Delicious Middle Eastern food or counter food at reasonable prices. Sign up on Clip board in Foyer. Loas Tong.

Girls Brigade recommenced this week. It is held on Tuesdays: 6pm to 7.45pm. Please pray for new leaders to come forward in the early part of 2015 to develop a new leadership team for our Girls' Brigade Contact Julie Dickey 535 5814, 0274 925659 or juliedickey@ews.net.nz

Inspirational TV : Visit Inspirational TV at www.inspirational.tv.net for this week's message.

Offerings: We are in the process of preparing for the end of the personal tax year and would like to know if anyone has any spare envelopes they are no longer using that we can reissue. If you would prefer to have envelopes on a different cycle ie fortnightly instead of weekly please let Jeannine know, or if anyone would like more information on giving by Direct Credit instead of the envelope system please contact Jeannine in the office or Brannie Ma for the Mandarin congregation.

Real Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (1st March) John's guest will be 'New Zealander of the Year' finalist, **Dr Sharad Paul**.

Invitation for Middlemore Hospital Spiritual Centre thanksgiving. More details on the column in the foyer.

World Day of Prayer Service: Friday 6 March: Howick Presbyterian Church

The women of the Howick Presbyterian Church are hosting the World Day of Prayer Service to be held on Friday 6th March 2015 at 10:30 am at St Andrews Church, 11 Vincent St, Howick. This service has been prepared by the women of the Bahamas and the theme is "Do you know what I have done to you?" – based on John 13 1-17. Everyone is welcome.

Our House: This Monday, 2 March, from 9.30am for approximately 1 hour, followed by morning tea. Let's work on keeping our house clean together.

Trade Aid Stall this Sunday: After church today, there will be a stall selling a range of Trade Aid's products including coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and dried fruits.