



St John's
Being the Gospel to all People

**Sunday
14 November 2021**

A very warm welcome is extended to all on Zoom this Sunday. Stay for a chat online after the service.

What Lasts?

Scripture readings: Mark 13:1-8



13 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Next Sunday: 21 November

Theme: Reign of Christ

Scripture reading: John 18:33-37

Prayer points for: the safety of all workers at our borders and in MIQ facilities, in health, emergency, social and essential services during the global pandemic; for those currently in hospital or undergoing treatment; for good health for Mary and Brenda and for accessibility to Covid vaccines for all.

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Connecting with life

So much of life today seems to be driven by fear. We wonder when the next climate disaster will hit, where will the next pandemic emerge, how long will our economic security last? Today's scriptures remind us of the One who listens to our fears and transforms the seeming barrenness of our futures, who challenges us to see the life God offers to us.

- **How do you deal with the fears of life?**
- **Where and in what or whom do you find double portions of hope?**
- **What stories from today's news give you encouragement?**

Scripture

Mark 13:1–8 Mark's words can make us feel uneasy. They also prepare us for transformation. Even in the midst of suffering, even in the midst of upheaval, rebirth and hope are the ways of God.

- **To what extent do Jesus' words evoke in you a sense of fear? concern? confusion? hope?**
- **What's being reborn in your life? church? community?**

The temple to which Jesus refers in Mark 13 was destroyed in 70 CE. Many scholars believe that the gospel was written after this destruction.

- **How would this make the author's words of greater significance to the first readers/hearers of the gospel of Mark?**
- **What would need to change in today's structures or systems to reflect God's compassion and justice? What are today's birth pangs?**

Connecting scripture and life

The simplest thing would be to give into those fears which commentators and politicians keep drumming into our ears. The more difficult task for followers of Jesus, is to trust, to hold on to the promises, to see life beyond walls of worry built around us.

- **How might you challenge those who constantly promote fear and worry? What words of hope might you offer?**



THIS WEEK

14 Nov – 21 Nov 2021

Sunday 9.30 am Zoom services in English and service in Mandarin

Friday:
7 pm – 9 pm Youth Group on Zoom

Sunday: Zoom Services in English and Mandarin

- In what ways might you, individually and as the church, encourage each other in hope? What stories might you tell?

THANKSGIVING 2021

NOVEMBER

This year our thanksgiving offerings will go towards the upstairs hall and gallery renovations and 10% to the Breakfast Club.

Thanksgiving offerings via direct credit to please ensure you reference 'thanksgiving' when making the payment.



Advent Walk to Bethlehem

Mary and Joseph walked 145km from Nazareth to Bethlehem. You are invited to make walk/ride/swim on an Advent journey to the manger, using scripture as your focus. Please see the attached resources for your advent walk to Bethlehem.

REAL LIFE Sunday 14 November

This Sunday John Cowan’s guest will be the governor-general of New Zealand **Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro**. Dame Cindy was born in Whangārei, the eldest of six children. She is of Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahu and British descent, and was the first person in her family to achieve tertiary qualifications: a PhD in Social Policy and an MBA (Exec) in Business Administration.

Much of Dame Cindy’s career has been in the tertiary education sector, holding leadership roles at Massey University, Victoria University Wellington/Te Herenga Waka and the University of Auckland, where she was Director of the Starpath Project investigating the impacts of socioeconomic status on educational achievement in New Zealand. Her public sector roles have included Children’s Commissioner and Chair of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group. She has also devoted time to voluntary and community organisations working on reducing child poverty, environmental causes to protect the natural world and addressing family violence.

Dame Cindy is married to Dr Richard Davies, a GP at a low-cost general practice attached to the Auckland City Mission. She is the mother of two sons, step-mother to two sons, and grandmother to two grandsons.

AGM

Bucklands Beach Cooperating Parish

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER

Following the 9.30 am Services

St John's Community Camp

EAT. PLAY. PRAY.

the unforced rhythms of grace

EAT

What would happen if we expanded the circle, lengthened the table, and decided to feast together?

PLAY

Outdoor games, a quiz night, a themed dinner, art, puzzles, music areas and opportunities to explore the Hunua Ranges

PRAY

A few chapel sessions lead by an amazing spiritual director, a talented worship band and a space for small group discussions.

ANYONE AND EVERYONE INVITED!

Fri 25th - Sun 27th February
Hunua Presbyterian Camp

\$100pp for the weekend

\$50 for 1 night/day

\$15 for under 5yrs

*all activities are optional

For more information or to register go to:
www.stjohnsbb.org.nz/community-camp

Sunday Services: English / Mandarin Services via Zoom 9:30a.m.

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9:00am – 2:00pm, Fri 9am-11am

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