



St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
4-Dec-2022

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.

**Wilderness
Experience**

Scripture reading: Matthew 3:1-12 (New International Version)



John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Next Sunday: 11-Dec-2022
Theme: Third Sunday of Advent
Scripture readings: Matthew 11:2-11

Prayer points: for Judy McDonald and family
For Brenda and for peace to be restored in Ukraine.
For Joan Rutherford to have wisdom to weigh heavy decisions.

Hello, my friends, welcome to the second Sunday of Advent. In today's gospel reading John the Baptist is the figure attached to our reading. His appearance at every Advent season is never easier nor is his message palatable. He is such an unusual character to me. He is rugged, ascetic nonconformist, whose diet consists of grasshopper and wild honey, and he carries on his message to the margins – in the wilderness. The gist of his message is "Prepare to meet thy God".

Also, he declares that God cares and will demand accountability. And so, he invites us to "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near". What is John saying? *Metanoia*. *Metanoia* is of course a Greek word, a compound word. Which brings together a preposition and a noun. *Meta-* come out of or be over or above. And *nous* – mind. Come out of your mind.

What John is saying to us is we need to wake up. We need to come out of the stories that have been animating our life thus far. Why is that important for us? Because God is always showing up in our life together. But when our imagination get co-opted into the fear and anxiety narratives, we end up missing God.

Lastly, John makes the case that repentance has to do not only with remorse over past failures, but also *Metamorph*, which is a transformation of the heart and life. And so, my friends we are invited this Advent to wake up and allow the spirit of God to transform us from the inside out.

THIS WEEK

From: 4-Dec-2022
To: 11-Dec-2022

Sunday 4-Dec-2022
9.30 am Communion Service in English/ Mandarin

Tuesday 6-Dec-2022
1:00 pm Funeral Service for Dick McDonald (hall)

Thursday 8-Dec-2022
3.15 pm MusiqHub (foyer)

Friday 9-Dec-2022
9.30 am – noon Knitting Group (gallery)
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Youth Group (upstairs hall)

Sunday 11-Dec-2022
9.30 am Service in English/ Mandarin





The Service of Love

We are saddened to announce Dick McDonald's passing. Dick's family would like to invite you to join his funeral service on 6 December 2022 (Tuesday) at 1:00 pm to be held at St Johns

Coffee and Chat

Because of Dick McDonalds funeral service on the 6th our December Coffee and Chat will now be held on the 13th Dec



JOHN MAKES ME THINK OF THOSE CRAZY GUYS WHO PREDICT THE END OF THE WORLD.



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EXCEPT THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN REALLY HAS COME TO US IN JESUS.



HIS ARRIVAL CALLS US TO TURN FROM SERVING OUR FALSE GODS. OH - I DON'T SERVE ANY FALSE GODS.



I JUST LIKE THEM A LOT!



MATTHEW 5:1-12

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**Friday night Youth Group
Friday 7 pm at St Johns**

Schedules can be found on notice board and hard copies available on front desk.

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Winnie Wong	534 2305
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	027 325 6097
People's Warden	Julie Dickey	535 5814
Minister's Warden	TBA	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	274 8534
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	274 8534

Youth Group: Contact Jeff 022 674 0044 minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz

	This Week's Helpers 4-Dec-2022	Next Week's Helpers 11-Dec-2022
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John	Jeanette, Winnie and Albert
Projector	Jed Stanton	Henry Turner
Sound Desk	Collin Francke	Alicia Odhiambo
Reader	Derek Speer	Michelle Cao
Intercessor	Liz Speer	Joan Rutherford
HC set up	Alison Stanton	N/A
HC Serving team	Grace Corbett Joan Rutherford	N/A N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Could this be you?
Welcome Desk	Could this be you?	Joan Rutherford
Usher	Derek and Liz Speer	Alison Stanton
Counters	Derek Speer Christo John	Nessie Crawford Jeanette Li
Morning Tea	Julie Dickey Alison Stanton	Betty Curd Joan Jones