



St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
11-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.

What then did you
go out to see?

Scripture reading: Matthew 11:2-11 (New International Version)



2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Next Sunday: 18-Dec-2022
Theme: Forth Sunday of Advent
Scripture readings: Matthew 1:18-25

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.

Message from Minister

Hello, my friends. Welcome to our Third Sunday of Advent. Our Watchword for this week is Joy. I don't know about you, but I find these calls to joy difficult. "Rejoice" is a churchy word I don't use in regular life, so I feel hesitant around it. "Joy" itself is a word so overused in Western commercialization of Christmas.

I wrestle with this Sunday's Gospel reading, which places me in a context quite different from Isaiah's blooming wilderness. The Gospel of Matthew has me hunkering in a prison cell on this Joy Sunday, offering uneasy company to a broken John the Baptist. In prison, John hears what Jesus is doing, and he sends his disciples to Jesus to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" I wonder what is causing John's uncertainty, from being a fiery preacher of repentance to being a questioning doubter?

The reading provides us with two possible explanations. Most scholars intuit that John lies depressed and becomes haunted with doubts. Another plausible argument is that John seem uncertain because of what Jesus is reported to be doing.

The bible says, "Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." For John to enter in the Joy that Jesus is speaking about, John needs a new understanding of who Jesus in reality is. I wonder if that is our invitation on this Third Sunday of Advent. Three times the crowd are confronted with their eagerness to hear John "What did you go out... to look at?" "What then did you go out to see?" I suspect, we are being confronted with those same questions as well.

THIS WEEK

From: 11-Dec-2022
To: 18-Dec-2022

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

Tuesday 13-Dec-2022
10:00 am Coffee & Chat
7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 15-Dec-2022
3.15 pm MusiqHub (foyer)

Friday 16-Dec-2022
9.30 am – noon Knitting Group
(gallery)
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Youth
Group (upstairs hall)

Sunday 18-Dec-2022
9.30 am Communion Service in
English/ Mandarin

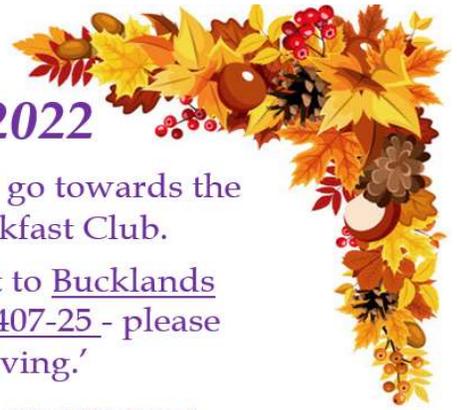


THANKSGIVING 2022

This year our thanksgiving offerings will go towards the repairs of the roof and 10% to a Breakfast Club.

Thanksgiving offerings via direct credit to Bucklands Beach Cooperating Parish 03-0166-0135407-25 - please ensure you reference 'Thanksgiving.'

If giving by envelopes, please check to ensure your Giving Number is on the outside of the envelope.



COFFEE and CHAT

Our final get together for the year will be on
Tuesday 13 December at 10am.

Join us for intelligent conversation, catching up and a festive morning tea.
If you would like to bring a small plate for our Christmas morning tea
that would be much appreciated.

All welcome.



Christmas Eve -We will be making Christingles

We hope you will join us at our Christmas Eve service on **Saturday 24 December at 7 pm**. Please bring an **orange** as we will be making Christingles during the service.

Christingle, from a word of German origin, *Christkindl*, means "Little Christ Child" and is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World".

A Christingle consists of:

- an orange, which represents the world,
- a candle, which represents Jesus Christ as Light of the World,
- a red ribbon or tape wrapped round the orange, which represent the blood of Christ and some dried fruit and sweets skewered into the sides, which represent the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.



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 11-Dec-2022	Next Week's Helpers 18-Dec-2022
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Allyce C, Jeanette L, Winnie W and Albert I	Joan Williamson
Projector	Henry Turner	Alicia Odhiambo
Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Alicia Odhiambo
Reader	Michelle Cao	Trevor Haigh
Intercessor	Joan Rutherford	Mavis Haigh
HC set up	N/A	Winnie Wong
HC Serving team	N/A	Bob Williamson
Prayer ministry	Could this be you?	Joan Jones
Welcome Desk	Joan Rutherford	Could this be you?
Usher	Derek & Liz Speer	Trevor & Mavis Haigh
Counters	Nessie Crawford Jeanette Li	Trevor Haigh Albert Ip
Morning Tea	Betty Curd Joan Jones	Uraivan Jolly Nessie Crawford