



**St Johns**  
Being the Gospel to all People

Saturday  
24-Dec-2022

## Theme for Tonight: A Song of Gratitude

Scripture reading: Luke: 1: 67 - 79 New International Version



### Zechariah's Song

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn<sup>[a]</sup> of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), <sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—

<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, <sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven <sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

**Sunday 25-Dec-2022**  
**Theme: Glory to God in the Highest**  
**Scripture readings: Luke 2: 1-14**

**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.

Greetings my friends, welcome to the doorway to Christmas. Gathering for candlelight Midnight service on Christmas Eve is one of my favourite childhood memories, and it continues to be one of the fondest church practices of my year.

Zachariah's praise song, also known as the Benedictus, is our gospel reading for the Christmas Eve service. The Praise song comes after the birth of John the Baptist at the climax of the naming ceremony. The Praise Song throws into higher relief the miraculous recovery of Zachariah's speech, which in turn confirms the choice of the name of John.

The Praise song can be divided into two parts. The first verses 68-75, blesses God for bringing salvation to Israel; verses 76-79, rejoices in the birth of John the Baptist.

The seemingly spontaneous, prophetic, poetic, and soft yet militant song of gratitude is actually a transpose of the book of Daniel and 2nd Samuel in the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit overshadows Zachariah, and he moves from the mundane into a deeper awareness or an altered state. Communion or grace maybe the words that come closest to what Zachariah was experiencing after the birth of John the Baptist. The experience that Zachariah has is a slowing down of time, a widening of space, a panoramic type of perception that causes a collapse of boundaries between people, space, and time.

My sense this Christmas Eve is that we are being invited to interrogate from which inner place will we choose to operate. And so, how might we then engage with and enter into the Spirit of this thanksgiving song this Christmas Eve?

In what ways as a community gathered at St Johns might we linger, explore, and allow this poem-song to explode in us and cause us to move beyond the enmeshment of our scarcity driven culture?

**THIS WEEK**

**From:** 24-Dec-2022  
**To:** 1-Jan-2023

**Saturday 24-Dec-2022**

7:00 pm Christmas Eve  
Service in English/ Mandarin

**Sunday 25-Dec-2022**

9:30 am Christmas Day  
Communion Service in  
English/ Mandarin

**Thursday 29-Dec-2022**

Musiqhub - term break

**Friday 30-Dec-2022**

No Knitting Group  
No Youth Group

**Sunday 1-Jan-2023**

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.

Still want to make Thanksgiving offering for 2022? Collection is on until 31 Dec

### Finance Report for November 2022

#### Regular Income

Offering Income \$4,531.97;

Rental and interest Income \$5023.14;

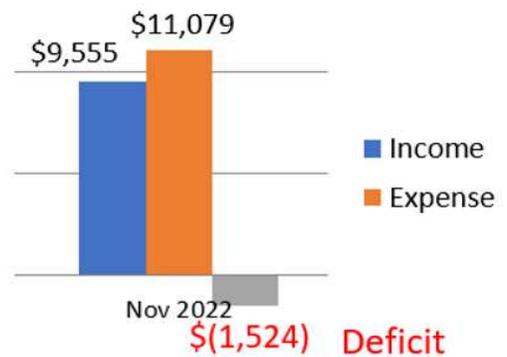
Expenses \$11,078.94

**Deficit in Nov: \$1,523.83**

Note: Special Income and Expenditure in Nov 2022

Thanksgiving Offering Income: \$4,320.00

Auditor's fee (once a year): \$2,712.45



A full presentation of our Church's finance for Q4 2022 will be done on 1 Jan 2023 (Sun) during Our Time Together session.

## Friday night Youth Group

Friday 7 pm at St Johns

2022 Youth Group Concludes - 2023 Roster Will Be Available in Jan 2023

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 534 2305	Email: <a href="mailto:office@stjohnsbb.org.nz">office@stjohnsbb.org.nz</a>	
Website:	<a href="https://stjohnsbb.org.nz">https://stjohnsbb.org.nz</a>	
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](mailto:minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz)

	Today's Helpers 24-Dec-2022	Christmas Day's Helpers 25-Dec-2022
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Allyce Chan, Jeanette Li Albert Ip	Rahil John
Projector	Alison Stanton	Cian John-Francke
Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Kieran John-Francke
Reader	Alison Stanton	Jed Stanton
Intercessor	Alicia Odhiambo	Winnie Wong
HC set up	N/A	Winnie Wong
HC Serving team	N/A N/A	TBC
Prayer ministry	Could this be you?	Could this be you?
Welcome Desk	Could this be you?	Could this be you?
Usher	Alison Stanton	Alison Stanton
Counters	Jeanette Li Albert Ip	Jeanette Li Albert Ip
Morning Tea	N/A N/A	Grace Tay Miranda Huang