



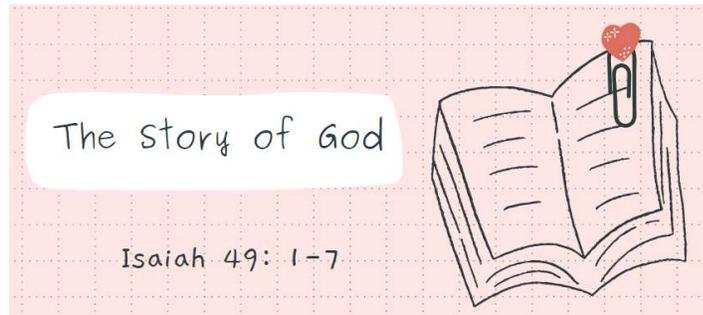
**St Johns**  
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday  
15-Jan-2023

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.

**Theme: The Story of God**

**Scripture reading: Isaiah 49: 1-7 New Revised Standard Version**



<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength —

<sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

**Sunday 22-Jan-2023**

**Theme: Follow Me**

**Scripture readings:** Isaiah 9: 1-4 & Matthew 4: 12-22

**Prayer points:**

- For Judy McDonald and family
- For Jack, the 11-years-old grandson of Julie and David Dickey, to be able to travel back to Auckland from Canada smoothly. Jack had an accident during skiing and broke his leg.
- For Brenda's health
- For peace to be restored in Ukraine.
- For Joan Rutherford to have wisdom to weigh heavy decisions.

**Message for Today**

Growing up, I had a dim view of the Old Testament. It wasn't that it was bad, but it didn't have Jesus. Therefore, as a Christian, the New Testament was our testament. The Old was good to teach at Sunday school and showed things about God, but to really get to the deep stuff one had to look at Jesus and Paul....especially Paul. Now, I am not trying to put down Paul or Jesus. But I do think that the focus which took place in my early Christianity as a result of this attention to only the New Testament for living life, caused me to fall into the same trap that humanity has fallen into time immemorial. And that trap is asking, "How does this affect me? What can I get out of it?" This way of thinking is very common to humans. And in many cases, this is not a bad perspective to have when thinking through a scenario.

However, studying theology has led me to a place of wondering, did the way I was taught to look at the Old Testament give me the correct perspective of God and his purpose? Is Christianity and the salvation of my soul the end all and be all of the gospel message? Is the salvation of the church the end of the story? Or is there more to the story that God has been telling since the beginning of creation and continues to tell today?

I have come to find that God's story about God's creation, God's purpose, God's salvation, and God's love is quite a bit grander than anything that my limited perspective of my own life and my own concerns about these topics could ever hope to be without understanding the Old Testament.

**THIS WEEK**

**From: 15-Jan-2023**

**To: 22-Jan-2023**

**Sunday 15-Jan-2023**

9:30 am Holy Communion Service in English (Chinese subtitle)

**Wednesday 18-Jan-2023**

N/A

**Thursday 19-Jan-2023**

Musiqhub - term break

**Friday 20-Jan-2023**

No Knitting Group  
No Youth Group

**Sunday 22-Jan-2023**

9.30 am Service in English (Chinese subtitle)

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*Thanksgiving 2022*

Total Thanksgiving offerings collected between November &  
December 2022  
**\$5,720**

Direct credit offerings to Bucklands Beach Cooperating Parish  
03-0166-0135407-25

**Dear God, we are thankful**



**Stay vigilant &  
SAFEGUARD EACH OTHER**

**When feeling unwell,  
stay home and take  
rest**

**Wear a facemask when needed**



## **General Notes**

- Winnie's office hours for next week will be adjusted as below:
  - 17 Jan (Tue) 9:00 am - 12:30 pm & 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
  - 18 Jan (Wed) 9:00 am - 12:00 (noon)
  - 19 Jan (Thur) OFF
  - 20 Jan (Fri) 2:00 pm - 5:00 pmSorry for the disruption and I will resume normal hours afterward.
- The upstairs refrigerator (and freezer) contains food items that are either expired or about to expire. Please bring them home if they belong to you. Leftover items will be removed on 26 Jan 2023 (Thursday).

**Friday night Youth Group - 2023 Roster Will Be Available in late Jan 2023**  
Stay Tuned

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 15-Jan-2023	Next Week's Helpers 22-Jan-2023
Preacher	Alicia Odhiambo	Elizabeth Speer & Mavis Haigh
Musician/s	Rahil John	Joan Williamson Winnie Wong
Projector	Kieran John-Francke	Alison Stanton
Sound Desk	Kieran John-Francke	Jed Stanton
Reader	Trevor Haigh	Alison Stanton
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Winnie Wong
HC set up	Ayleen de Vilder	N/A
HC Serving team	Mavis Haigh (lead) Ayleen de Vilder (support)	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Jones	Could this be you?
Sunday School	Winnie Wong	Winnie Wong
Welcome Desk	Ayleen & Charles de Vilder	Could this be you?
Usher	Trevor & Mavis Haigh	Alison Stanton
Counters	Trevor Haigh	Jeanette Li
	Albert Ip	Bob Williamson
Morning Tea	Uraiwan Jolly Felicity Vincer	Nessie Crawford Allyce Chan