



St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
17-Sep-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.

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Scripture reading: Matthew 18:21-35 (New International Version)



Matthew 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sunday

24-Sep-2023

THIS WEEK

Theme: TBC

Scripture readings: Exodus 16:2-15 Matthew 20:1-16

From: 17-Sep-2023

To: 24-Sep-2023

Prayer points:

- For peace to be restored in Ukraine;
- For Jane's health;
- For Brenda's health;
- For Felicity's recovery;
- For violence and crime to be subdued in our country.
- For those who have had major surgery and are recovering at home;
- For support for all those who have lost loved ones, homes and/or livelihoods in the recent natural disasters;
- For Judy McDonald and family.

Pastoral Reflection

Greetings, Friends, who love St Johns,

It is very exciting that next week we will be having our Annual General Meeting. I love such opportunities, because it gives us an occasion to reflect together on how we are doing, and space to discern together what might God be calling us to as a community. So, can I invite us to continue praying for our community as we anticipate taking the time to reflect together and appoint new people into the Parish Council. I am extremely grateful to Trevor and Liz who have served us well for the past many years but are now planning to retire from the Parish Council. We pray for God's blessings to them and their family.

This week's gospel reading is about forgiveness. I am a little bit ambivalent about writing/preaching about forgiveness. It is not because I don't believe that forgiveness is essential to Christianity. But because I am cognizant of the way forgiveness is sometimes utilized to bypass issues of power, justice and lament. In particular, the call for racial equality and healing in our culture at the moment. Sometimes forgiveness is used as a weapon to silence people who are crying out against injustice.

I think the context of the parable this week can be linked to the Lord's prayer. In Matthew 18 Jesus is talking about conflict, and healthy ways of responding to conflict. Which then leads Peter to ask Jesus, "**Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?**"

To which Jesus say not seven but seventy times seven. And then he tells them a story/parable. And at the end of the story we can hear the echoes of the Lord's prayer, "**and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors**". Jesus wants Peter to understand that the fundamental nature of God's kingdom is profoundly relational reality. There is not just me and God. God is our Father, but he is also a Father with a family and God's desire is that his children be reconciled to one another. Jesus says, "**This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.**"

Sunday 17-Sep-2023

9.30 am Holy Communion Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:00 pm Christian Youth Church

Monday 18-Sep-2023

N/A

Tuesday 19-Sep-2023

N/A

Wednesday 20-Sep-2023

7:00 pm AA meeting (foyer)

Thursday 21-Sep-2023

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 22-Sep-2023

10:00 am Knitting Group
6:45 pm Youth Group

Sunday 24-Sep-2023

Annual General Meeting (AGM)
9.30 am Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:00 pm Christian Youth Church



24 Sep
Next
Sunday

Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Save the Day



Nominate a Parish Council Member

Nomination Form
Available on Welcome Desk
Please return to Jeff or Winnie
on or before **23 Sep 2023**



Coffee & Chat

Save the Day
26 Sep (Tue)
10:00am till noon
Bring a friend and/or families



Songs for Today

1. How Great Thou Art
2. Because He Lives
3. Great is Thy Faithfulness
4. Change my Heart, Oh Lord



St Johns Ministry - 40th Anniversary - (30 November 1975) - photo taken 8 December 2015



Grahame
Drummond



Jeff
Odhiambo



Rev Lorraine Francis, Rev Eleanor Battley,
Rev Dr Don Battley, Rev Max Scott,
Rev Grahame Drummond, Rev Bill Heald

Our earlier ministers:

- Bill Heald (A) - interim
- Grahame Drummond (P)
- Max Scott (A)
- Jim Thornburrow (P)
- Don and Eleanor Battley (A)
- Lorraine Francis (P)
- Jeff Odhiambo (A)

We acknowledge the support

- of others: Ron Ayers, Marilyn Welch, Ann McLean, Adam MacFarlan (P), Andrew Wardlaw (P), Bryan Drake (A) and Beryl Burgess (M)

Friday evening Youth Group
Every Friday at 6:45 pm

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 09 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Winnie Wong	
Community Facilitator	Antony Dayal	
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	
People's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Minister's Warden	TBA	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	

Youth Group: Contact Antony or Jeff community@stjohnsbb.org.nz

	Today's Helpers 17-Sep-2023	Next Week's Helpers 24-Sep-2023
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John Albert Ip	Joan Williamson Winnie Wong
Projector & Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Alicia Odhiambo
Reader	Trevor Haigh	Olga Ferreira
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Bob Williamson
HC set up	Ayleen de Vilder	N/A
HC Serving team	Joan Rutherford	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Judy McDonald
Sunday School	Antony Dayal	Antony Dayal
Welcome Desk	Mavis Haigh	Ayleen de Vilder
Usher	Trevor Haigh	Charles de Vilder
Counters	Trevor Haigh Albert Ip	Nessie Crawford Bob Williamson
Morning Tea	Monita Leung Jojo Lee	Miranda Huang Grace Tay