



Sunday
15-Oct-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 Wedding Banquet

Scripture reading: Matthew 22:1-14 (New International Version)



The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Sunday

22-Oct-2023

THIS WEEK

Theme: TBC

Scripture readings: TBC

From:

15-Oct-2023

To:

22-Oct-2023

Prayer points:

- For peace and restoration of stability in Ukraine and other regions experiencing unrest;
- 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.

Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who helped at the Holiday Programme. Thank you for your generosity with your time and resources and thank you for sharing them with us. May God bless your lives richly.

This week's gospel lection is very challenging. Most preachers, given the option of choosing either Matthew's or Luke's version of the parable of the banquet as the text for sermon, would obviously choose Luke's. Matthew's version is harsh, hyperbolic and steeped in violence – there is no way of softening its jagged edges.

I wonder if there is a different way of reading this parable, different from the way we grew up interpreting it. The parable has a lot of details that are difficult for us to comprehend. For instance, should a guest invited off the street be expected to have the appropriate clothes? What is implied when the guest is described as "speechless"? Is this evidence of guilt, or stunned into silence? Isn't being thrown outside into the darkness where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth" a harsh punishment for one who only lacks the proper attire?

New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine argues that if religion is supposed to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable," then Jesus's parables are meant to do the latter. If we read them and find ourselves unprovoked, then we aren't really seeing them. And so, what if the king in the parable isn't God at all? What if the king is what we project onto God? Also, what if the "God" figure in the parable is the one guest who refuses to accept the terms of the tyrannical king? The one guest who decides not to "wear the robe" of forced celebration and coerced amusement, the one guest whose silent resistance leaves the king himself "speechless," and brings the whole sham feast to a thundering halt? What will be the implication of that interpretation? What would we change if we learn that Jesus was the one guest who was not wearing the right clothes? What will be willing to give up and join him out there in the darkness?

Sunday 15-Oct-2023

9.30 am Holy Communion Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Monday 16-Oct-2023

3:00 pm Funeral Service for Meryl Rhynd

Tuesday 17-Oct-2023

7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18-Oct-2023

7:00 pm AA meeting (foyer)

Thursday 19-Oct-2023

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 20-Oct-2023

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

Sunday 22-Oct-2023

9.30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church



Meryl Rhynd

Passed Away on 10 Oct 2023 (Tue)

Funeral Service: 16 Oct 2023 (Mon)

Time: 3:00 pm



Coffee & Chat

31 Oct (Tue)

10:00 am till noon

Bring a friend !



DEMENTIA AWARENESS WORKSHOP

The *Educational Dementia Immersive Experience (EDIE)* workshop uses virtual reality technology and equipment which will allow you to see the world through the eyes of a person living with dementia. It will help you to develop insight, empathy and a better understanding of the needs of people living with dementia. The workshop will be led by a professional trainer from *Alzheimers NZ*.



Date & Time: Tuesday Oct 24, 1 - 3 pm

Location: St Columba Presbyterian Church, 480 Ti Rakau Drive, Botany

To Register, please use this link

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/PresbyterianSupportNorthern/DementiaAwarenessWorkshopRegistration>
OR

email Sharon.rossensor@psn.org.nz (Presbytery Liaison Manager, Presbyterian Support Northern)

The highest honour in the church is not government but service - John Calvin, theologian



Responsibilities of Parish Council members

From the UCANZ Procedures for Cooperative Ventures:

"The local church council is responsible to the local church and partner church courts for the financial affairs, historic records, roll of members, and generally the life and work of the local church. They are also required to meet all statutory requirements as necessary (for example, Health and Safety, Fire, and Building Code regulations).

"It is appropriate for the local church council to develop processes that support those undertaking ministry in the local church. This may mean appointing, in consultation with those in ministry, an individual or small group (possibly called wardens, stewards, or senior elders) to give pastoral support to those who work in the local church."

Reference: Clauses 3.2.6 and 3.2.7 of *UCANZ Procedures for Cooperative Ventures*

<https://tinyurl.com/529tttd2m>



Songs for Today

1. Come now is the time to worship
2. I the Lord of sea and sky
3. The servant king
4. The steadfast love of the love never ceases

Friday evening Youth Group - 6:45 p.m.

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	Ayleen de Vilder	
Minister's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	

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

	Today's Helpers 15-Oct-2023	Next Week's Helpers 22-Oct-2023
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John Albert Ip	Joan Williamson Winnie Wong
Projector & Sound Desk	Alicia Odiambo	Mavis Haigh
Reader	Trevor Haigh	Felicity Vincer
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Bob Williamson
HC set up	Ayleen de Vilder	N/A
HC Serving team	Judy McDonald	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Joan Jones
Sunday School	Antony Dayal	Antony Dayal
Welcome Desk	Mavis Haigh	Ayleen de Vilder
Usher	Judy McDonald	Charles de Vilder
Counters	Trevor Haigh Albert Ip	Charles de Vilder Bob Williamson
Morning Tea	Jeanette Dimock Winnie Wong	Monita Leung Jojo Lee