



St John's
Being the Gospel to all People

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.

Sunday
3-Dec-2023
From Moab to
Bethlehem

Scripture reading: Ruth 1:1-22 (New International Version)



Naomi Loses Her Husband and Sons

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—

¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!"

¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."

²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

Sunday

10-Dec-2023

THIS WEEK

Theme: TBC

From:

3-Dec-2023

Scripture readings: Ruth chapter 2

To:

10-Dec-2023

Prayer points:

- For peace and restoration of stability in Israel, 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;
- For support for all those who have lost loved ones, homes and/or livelihoods in the recent natural disasters.

Sunday

3-Dec-2023

Food Bank

9.30 am Holy Communion Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)

3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Monday

4-Dec-2023

5:30 pm Community Dinner

Tuesday

5-Dec-2023

10:00 am Coffee & Chat

Wednesday

6-Dec-2023

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday

7-Dec-2023

10:30 am Finance Team Meeting

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday

8-Dec-2023

10:00 am Knitting Group

6:45 pm Youth Group

Sunday

10-Dec-2023

9.30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)

3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

I cannot believe we are already in December 2023. And it is also the beginning of our Advent journey. I am really excited about our Advent series this year. I really love the book of Ruth. I think it might be one of my favourite books in the Old Testament (at least for now). I end up learning a lot of fascinating and cool stuff every time I sit down to study the book of Ruth. (There is a lot of layers to this book – we can spend a whole year peeling through it).

To keep the suspense going, I will be sharing our Pastoral Reflection of the previous chapter a week later. I would like to invite us to read the story week by week, chapter by chapter and watch together as the story unfold. I want us to come to the resolution of the story together.

Each week, we will create a space for prayer and reflections. We will consider prayerfully every Wednesday at Midday over the Advent season, what might God be calling us to attend to this Advent.

You see my friends, like Lent, Advent is a season of introspection, a time of clearing out our lives and restructuring our time in order to spend more time getting closer to God or helping others.

Advent is a season of preparation for the Nativity. It is an invitation, an opportunity to reflect, to ponder about our lives and prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming as well as Christ's second coming at the end of History.

Coffee & Chat

Save the Day

5 Dec (Tue)

10:00am till noon

Bring a friend and/or families

Christmas carols singing

&

Games



Community Dinner

Our monthly Community Dinner happens on
the 1st Monday of each month:

4 Dec 2023

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Potluck Style - Bring a Dish

Join Us !



Food Bank



Add a touch of festive magic to our
food bank collections!

Let's make our donations extra
special by including some luxury
treats like chocolates, meringues,
and fruit cakes.



Also collecting other items such as
linens, beddings, curtains, clothing,
kitchen appliances, etc.

Make sure they are in good condition
(good enough that you will want to wear
them yourself !)



Spread warmth and joy with your generous contributions.

ADVENT SUNDAY

FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



"Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity.

The name was adopted from Latin adventus "coming; arrival" translating Greek parousia from the New Testament, originally referring to the Second Coming.

"The season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming."

Source: Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advent>

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



Songs for Today

1. I am under the rock
2. O Little town of Bethlehem
3. What child is this?
4. The first Noel

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
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People's Warden	Ayleen de Vilder	
Minister's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	
Direct Credit Offerings AC	03-0166-0135407-025	

Youth Group: Contact Jeff minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz

	Today's Helpers 3-Dec-2023	Next Week's Helpers 10-Dec-2023
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John Albert Ip	Jeanette Li Dimock, Albert Ip Winnie Wong
Projector & Sound Desk	Collin Franke	Mavis Haigh
Reader	Olga Ferreira	Felicity Vincer
Intercessor	Julie Dickey	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
HC set up	Mavis Haigh	N/A
HC Serving team	Judy McDonald	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Joan Jones
Sunday School	An opportunity to serve here	An opportunity to serve here
Welcome Desk	An opportunity to serve here	Joan Rutherford
Usher	Judy McDonald	Trevor Haigh
Counters	Christo John Trevor Haigh	Jeanette Li Dimock Monita Leung
Morning Tea	Julie Dickey Jeanette Li Dimock	Betty Curd Nessie Crawford