



St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
17-Dec-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.

Scripture reading: Ruth chapter 3 (NIV)

The Threshing Floor:
The Great Sifting



The Third Sunday of Advent

Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor

3 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. **2** Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight, he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. **3** Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

5 "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. **6** So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

7 When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. **8** In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

9 "Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."

10 "The Lord bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. **11** And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. **12** Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. **13** Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives, I will do it. Lie here until morning."

14 So she lay at his feet until morning but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor."

15 He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

16 When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "How did it go, my daughter?"

Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her **17** and added, "He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"

18 Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."

Sunday

24-Dec-2023

THIS WEEK

Theme: TBC

From: 17-Dec-2023

Scripture readings: Ruth chapter 4

To: 24-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 17-Dec-2023

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

Monday 18-Dec-2023

N/A

Tuesday 19-Dec-2023

N/A

Wednesday 20-Dec-2023

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 21-Dec-2023

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 22-Dec-2023

10:00 am Knitting Group

Sunday 24-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,

Last week we saw that chapter 2 opens at the begin of a harvest and it ends just as the harvest is complete. Why? What is the writer trying to highlight? I believe the writer wants us to understand that Ruth story is at least in part a story about sowing and reaping. It is a story about the choices one makes in his life or her life to become a particular kind of person and how about those choices begin to radiate out in all directions over time.

In Chapter 2, Ruth does two things in the story that is noteworthy. She makes at least two key decisions in order for the story to begin unfolding. The first thing that Ruth does is that she goes with Naomi. She risked fidelity.

The second thing she does, and it is very easy to overlook but is equally significant. The second thing that Ruth does is she goes to the fields and she begin to glean. In other words, she goes to the place of opportunity and she start working hard. Doing the

quiet, humble, repetitive labour of walking along, bending down and picking up whatever is there, whatever she can find. Collecting it. Hoping that something good might come out of this. And that someone might come along and show her favour. She enacts this daily difficult task.

I believe the writer of the book Ruth wants us to understand Ruth is planting, she is sowing into the field of her life two things courage but also diligence. And it is the seed of those two decisions that is beginning to break into the surface of her life and produce a harvest.

And so, this Advent, what will we sow in the soil of our lives? Will we continue trying to be present to each other? Will we continue being generous with each other? Will we continue trying to forgive each other even though we feel like we are really imperfect at it? Will we commit to continue working hard with what God has already given us? Will we keep going at investing on our relationships? I hope the answer to these questions this Advent is a resounding yes!



Thanksgiving

**\$5,996 collected
as of Dec 14**

Express thankfulness by giving back!
Collection Period: Nov - Dec 2023
 Whether you give online or through envelopes, please use the remark
"Thanksgiving."



This year's Thanksgiving donation will support:

- 90% for general repair and maintenance fund
- 5% for the Breakfast Club
- 5% for Youth and Community Development Trust (Howick)

Bank account: 03-0166-0135407-025 (Bucklands Beach Co-op Parish)

Join us in spreading gratitude and helping those in need!



Office Close

between

1 January 2024 & 21 January 2024



For serious pastoral support, please contact Judy McDonald


Midday Prayer Time

December 2023

Wednesday at 12:00 pm 6th
 Wednesday at 12:00 pm 13th
 Wednesday at 12:00 pm 20th
 Wednesday at 12:00 pm 27th



It's Christmas carol time! This carol was voted second most popular in Britain in 1996.



AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

"The Birth of Jesus" (1878)
Gustave Doré

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/ykwetyu7>

Youth Group - School Holiday



Songs for Today

1. Hark the herald of angel sing
2. Silent night
3. It comes upon the midnight clear
4. Joy to the world

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	
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	
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 17-Dec-2023	Next Week's Helpers 24-Dec-2023
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John Albert Ip	Des Sharp
Projector & Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Michael Zhao
Reader	Sophia Ralph	Judy McDonald
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Julie Dickey
HC set up	Ayleen de Vilder	N/A
HC Serving team	Joan Rutherford	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Joan Jones
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	Mavis Haigh	Ayleen de Vilder
Usher	Mavis Haigh	Charles de Vilder
Counters	Trevor Haigh Albert Ip	Charles de Vilder Trevor Haigh
Morning Tea	Jojo Lee Monita Leung	Hongyan Song Julie Dickie