



Sunday  
31-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.

Happy New Year

**Scripture reading: Isaiah 43:18-21 (New International Version)**



<sup>18</sup> “Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
<sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals honor me,  
the jackals and the owls,  
because I provide water in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland,  
to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
<sup>21</sup> the people I formed for myself  
that they may proclaim my praise.



**Sunday**

**7-Jan-2024**

**THIS WEEK**

**Scripture readings: Mark 1:4-11 (New Revised Standard Version)**

**From:**

**31-Dec-2023**

**To:**

**7-Jan-2024**

**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.

**Pastoral Reflection**

Happy New Year, friends who love St Johns,

Isaiah begins his ministry among the exiles in Babylon. He sees the coming of Cyrus whom God “stirred up” (Isaiah 41: 25) following chaotic power struggles. Isaiah senses that God is about to do something new. Jerusalem has fallen, as Jeremiah had prophesied. But God who is the incarnated one has not fallen. God is about to restore his people in a new way.

And so, Isaiah says, remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I wonder if that is the invitation for us this year as people gathered at St Johns. I wonder if God is inviting us to forget the former things – you can fill in the blanks. But then God invite us to bear witness to the in breaking of a newness, because it is springing forth, do we have hearts to perceive what God is doing in and among us?

Friends 2023 is now gone. It is gone with its challenges and pain. I sense in 2024, we are being invited to enter this year with hope, hope that God is doing something new in our lives together. I am so excited about what is in store for us together. Because I firmly believe that our best days are not behind us, but before us. The God we worship is the Creator and Sustainer of all things: And in Him all things hold together. We can trust Him with our future. Happy New Year everybody!

**Sunday 31-Dec-2023**

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

**Monday 1-Jan-2024**

N/A

**Tuesday 2-Jan-2024**

N/A

**Wednesday 3-Jan-2024**

7:00 pm AA meeting

**Thursday 4-Jan-2024**

3:10 pm Musiqhub - holiday

**Friday 5-Jan-2024**

N/A

**Sunday 7-Jan-2024**

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



"Mary gave birth to Jesus and wrapped him in swaddling clothes ..." - Luke 2:7



### Why do we celebrate Christmas?

"Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ is more than a Christian holiday or Christian festival. It is more than an occasion to decorate our houses. It is an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the love, hope and joy found in Jesus – our Saviour and friend.

"As we exchange gifts with loved ones, it is out of remembrance of the gift God gave us in Jesus. The gift that we are loved, are never alone and can have hope for the future."

Source: The Salvation Army, Australia

<https://tinyurl.com/33mfwbvx>

## Office Close between 1 January 2024 & 21 January 2024

For serious pastoral support,  
please contact Judy McDonald  
021 057 6327



## Community Dinner

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

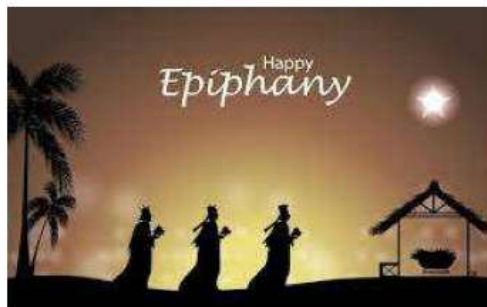
5:30 - 7:00 pm

## No Dinner Gathering in January 2024

Resume in Feb, 2024  
Potluck Style - Bring a Dish



**Epiphany** is a season in our liturgical calendar. For three weeks we celebrate how Epiphany is all about expanding God's Kingdom beyond his people Israel.



Source: <https://tinyurl.com/daa6vubc>

The word Epiphany describes the 12th day of Christmas, which falls on January 6th and marks the official end to the festive season for many Christians.

We also celebrate Jesus' baptism on this day and Epiphany also marks the visit to the baby Jesus by the Magi, (the three Kings, or Wise Men).

The word 'Epiphany' comes from Greek and means 'manifestation'. It celebrates 'the revelation of God



# Thanksgiving

## Total Offerings Collected: \$7,306



### Songs for 31Dec

1. Amazing Grace
2. How great thou art
3. Great is thy faithfulness
4. Give thanks



Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 09 534 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	
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	
People's Warden	Ayleen de Vilder	
Minister's Warden	Julie Dickey	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	021 057 6327
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	
Direct Credit Offerings AC	03-0166-0135407-025	

**Youth Group:** Contact Jeff [minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz](mailto:minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz)

	Today's Helpers 31-Dec-2023	Next Week's Helpers 7-Jan-2024
Preacher/ Service Leader	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Alicia Odhiambo
Musician/s	Jeanette Li Dimock	Joan Williamson
Projector & Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Michael Zhao
Reader	Mavis Haigh	Felicity Vincer
Intercessor	Liz Speer	Bob Williamson
HC set up	N/A	N/A
HC Serving team	N/A	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Rutherford	Please help here if required
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	Joan Rutherford	With ushering
Usher	Judy McDonald	Charles de Vilder
Counters	Jeanette Li Dimock	Rob Williamson
	Trevor Haigh	Christo John
Morning Tea	Mavis Haigh	Nessie Crawford
	Alison Stanton	Alison Stanton