



Sunday  
18-Feb-2024

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.

Beloved

**Scripture reading: Mark 1:9-15 (New International Version)**



Source: <https://www.unspokenelements.com/blogs/hope/the-lent-season>

### **The Baptism and Testing of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

### **Jesus Announces the Good News**

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Sunday

25-Feb-2024

THIS WEEK

Scripture readings: Mark 1:9-15 (New International Version)

From: 18-Feb-2024

To: 25-Feb-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**

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

Welcome to our first Sunday in the season of Lent. Lent is a season of 40 days of preparation. Time set aside to make us ready to celebrate and receive Christ and his resurrection. It is a season of reflection, examination, a time for honesty, repentance and humility.

Jesus before he began his public ministry; Mark says that the Spirit led him into the wilderness for a time of preparation, a season of testing before he began his public ministry.

I believe the reason Mark says Jesus was driven out in the wilderness is because frankly speaking none of us choose to go to the edge of ourselves. Every fibre of our being rebels against this move to the wilderness.

Richard Rohr in his book Falling Upwards says,

**“Sooner or later, if you are on any classic “spiritual schedule,” some event, person, death, ideas, or relationship will enter your life that you simply cannot deal with, using your present skill set, your acquired knowledge, or your strong willpower. Spiritually speaking you will be, you must be, led to the edge of your private resources. At that point you will stumble over the necessary stumbling stone, as Isaiah calls it; or to state it in the language here, you will, and you must “lose” at something. This is the only way that Life – fate – God – Grace – Mystery can get you to change, let go of your egocentric preoccupations, and go on further and larger journey...”**

He continues:

**“There is no practical or compelling reason to leave one’s present comfort zone in life. Why should you or would you? Frankly, none of us do unless and until we have to. The invitation probably has to be unexpected and unsought.”**

Do you hear what Rohr is positing? That there is something in us that resist going to the wilderness. So, life has to push us, force us, drive us, send us, compel us or thrust us into the wilderness, or we will never go.

And so, as your pastor I pray that we’ll walk with courage into the wilderness we can’t choose or avoid. I pray that our long stretches in the wilderness will teach us who we really are. And I pray that when angels in all their sweet and secret guises whisper “beloved” into our ears, we will listen, and believe them.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18-Feb-2024</b>
	9.30 am Holy Communion Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle) 3:30 pm Christian Youth Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>19-Feb-2024</b>
	N/A
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20-Feb-2024</b>
	N/A
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>21-Feb-2024</b>
	7:00 pm AA meeting
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>22-Feb-2024</b>
	3:10 pm Musiqhub
<b>Friday</b>	<b>23-Feb-2024</b>
	10:00 am Knitting Group 7:00 pm Youth Group
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25-Feb-2024</b>
	9.30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle) 3:30 pm Christian Youth Church

# Youth GROUP

2 0 2 4 T e r m I

**9th FEB** "God Loves"  
Ultimate Frisbee  
Potluck - Bring Food!

**16th FEB** "Love Yourself"  
Volleyball  
Pancakes

**23rd FEB** "Family Love"  
Dodgeball

**1st MAR** "Love Your Friends"  
Mural Painting

**8th MAR** "Church and Love"  
Basketball

**15th MAR** "What can't we Love?"  
Table Tennis

**22nd MAR** "Jesus Loves"  
Speedball  
Easter Egg Hunt

**29th MAR** Good Friday  
No Youth Group

**5th APR** "Community Love"  
Sardines  
Show & Tell

**12th APR** End of Term  
Celebration!

  
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## What is Lent?



Lent is a significant season in the year for Christians – a time of solemnity and self-reflection where they confess their failings and resolve to live a more godly life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. It lasts for just over six weeks leading up to Easter.

In most churches, the first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday.

Source: <https://www.christianity.org.uk/article/what-is-lent>

## Coming to grips with the TREATY

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand is a "multicultural church with a bicultural commitment". But what does that mean? In light of recent debate about te Tiriti o Waitangi, its principles and implementation today, come along to learn about te Tiriti and its history as we move forward together.

**WHEN:** 7-9:30pm Thursday 29 February 2024

**WHERE:** St Peter's, 7 Harrison Rd., Mt. Wellington

**WHO:** Facilitated by Dr. Susan Healy

This workshop is particularly open to members of Kohimarama, St. Heliers, St. Lukes Remuera, Somervell Remuera, St. Peter's Ellerslie, St John's Bucklands Beach

## Term 1 - Youth Group - Friday 7:00 pm

### Songs for Today



1. How Great Thou Art
2. Amazing Grace
3. Old Rugged Cross
4. An Evening Prayer



Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	TBC	
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**Youth Group:** Contact Jeff [minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz](mailto:minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz)

	Today's Helpers 18-Feb-2024	Next Week's Helpers 25-Feb-2024
Preacher/ Service Leader	Jeff Odhiambo	Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Rahil John	Joan Williamson
Projector & Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Michael Zhao
Reader	Judy McDonald	Natalie Springveldt
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Bob Williamson
HC set up	Alison Stanton	N/A
HC Serving team	Judy McDonald	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Jones	Please help here if required
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Judy McDonald	Mavis Haigh
Counters	Jeanette Li	Bob Williamson
	Christo John	Albert Ip
Morning Tea	Monita Leung	Jeanette Li
	Jojo Lee	Hong-yan Song