



St John's
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
25-Feb-2024

A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to St John's. Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy.

Liminal Times

Scripture reading: Mark 8:31-38 (New International Version)



Source: <https://janicemasonsteevesartwork.blogspot.com/2021/03/liminal-time.html>

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Sunday

3-Mar-2024

THIS WEEK

Scripture readings: John 2:13-22 (New International Version)

From: 25-Feb-2024

To: 3-Mar-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.

Sunday	25-Feb-2024
9:30 am Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)	
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church	
7:00 pm Lantern Festival Event	
Monday	26-Feb-2024
N/A	
Tuesday	27-Feb-2024
10:00 am Coffee and Chat	
Wednesday	28-Feb-2024
7:00 pm AA meeting	
Thursday	29-Feb-2024
3:10 pm Musiqhub	
Friday	1-Mar-2024
10:00 am Knitting Group	
7:00 pm Youth Group	
Sunday	3-Mar-2024
Food Bank	
9:30 am Holy Communion Sunday Service in English (Chinese subtitle)	
3:30 pm Christian Youth Church	

Hello, friends, who love St Johns,

Welcome to our second Sunday in Lent. We continue our journey in the Gospel of Mark.

Mark's gospel function as a little manual for Jesus' followers. It is structured very simply in two halves. The first eight chapters introduce us to the first secret: this Jesus of Nazareth is in fact the Messiah. The second eight chapters introduce us to the second secret: this Messiah is not the military warrior, but the Servant King. And at every point, Mark is telling the story so as to say to us, his readers: do you get the point? Do you understand? And if you do, are you prepared to go the Jesus' way? Are you ready for a life of discipleship?

What is most striking in our Gospel reading this week is Jesus' choice to not refer to himself as the Christ, but the "Son of Man" or, as some translate it as "The human one". Even more surprising is Jesus' conviction that "it is necessary that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, the scribes, and be killed, and three days later rise from the dead. – The Seed has to die. Because if it doesn't it abides alone for ever.

And So, Peter is shocked by this declaration, and he takes Jesus aside and begins to rebuke Jesus. But Jesus rebukes Peter (the verb, rebuke is the same one used to silence the demons {in Mark 1:25} Jesus says, "**Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things, but human things.**"

Peter's understanding of Messiah was that of a triumphant military leader who was going to restore Israel's glory – that is Peter was hoping that Jesus would make them what? Great again. To which Jesus says no.

"If any want to be my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it: and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

Jesus says, No! I am not here to make your lives Great again. Jesus unmask the weakness of the power systems and declares that the Kingdom of God is coming in a countercultural way. Which is to say discipleship Jesus' way is countercultural.

Coffee & Chat **27 Feb (Tue)**
10:00am till noon
Bring a Friend



Lantern Festival

25 Feb 2024
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Looking Forward to Seeing
You and Your Friends**



**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. Rejoice the Lord is King
2. Servant King
3. When I Survey
4. Oh, the mercy of God



Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	TBC	
Phone: 09 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Vacant	
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

	Today's Helpers 25-Feb-2024	Next Week's Helpers 3-Mar-2024
Preacher/ Service Leader	Jeff Odhiambo	Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Joan Williamson	Rahil John
Projector & Sound Desk	Michael Zhao	Collin Franke
Reader	Natalie Springveldt	Felicity Vincer
Intercessor	Bob Williamson	Elizabeth Speer
HC set up	N/A	Ayleen de Vilder
HC Serving team	N/A	Olga Ferreira
Prayer ministry	Please help here if required	Joan Rutherford
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Mavis Haigh	Olga Ferreira
Counters	Bob Williamson	Trevor Haigh
	Albert Ip	Christo John
Morning Tea	Jeanette Li	Jeanette Li
	Miranda Huang	Amy Wang