

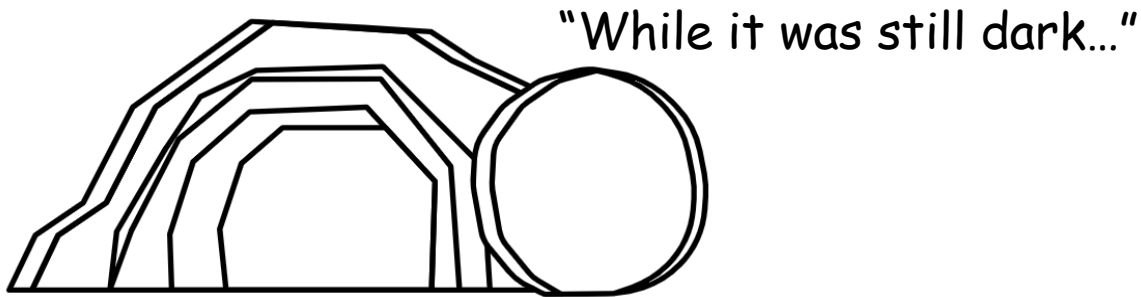


St Johns
Being the Gospel to all People

Sunday
31-Mar-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.

Scripture reading: John 20:1-18 (New International Version)



The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. **8** Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. **9** (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) **10** Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb **12** and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." **14** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sunday

7-Apr-2024

Scripture reading: John 20:19-31 (New International Version)

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.

Christ is Risen
Hallelujah

Pastoral Reflection

Hello, friends, who love St Johns, Happy Easter. Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!** Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!** Christ is risen! **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!** We have been holding off saying *alleluia* all through the season of Lent. The return of the word *alleluia* to worship service after a long absence serves as a reminder of Easter Joy, as does the call and response of Easter refrain (noted above), joyfully proclaimed on Eastertide (which stretches from Easter Sunday to Pentecost seven weeks, or fifty days later).

In the Greek Orthodox Church, congregants gather outside the church building before daybreak on Easter morning. Holding lit candles, they wait in the darkness. Then someone in the crowd knocks on the door of the church and calls out, "Is Jesus inside?" From within comes the response: "No, he is not here. He is risen!" The door flung open, and the people enter with joy, their candles illuminating the dark sanctuary.

Friends, Easter means God in Jesus refusing to exclude anything or anyone (even the darkness). In God there is no exclusionary impulse. The genius of Christianity is that it does not eliminate the darkness but incorporates it in its light. In Jesus God goes to the edge, to the bottom, kissing the lepers, loving the poor and healing even the woman with the issue of blood. Easter ultimately signals a religion that is not exclusionary but a religion that includes everyone and everything (even the darkness).

John says, "Early in the morning, while it was still dark..." That's where Easter began two millennia ago. It's where Easter still begins now. In the dark.

THIS WEEK

From: 31-Mar-2024

To: 7-Apr-2024

Sunday 31-Mar-2024

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

Monday 1-Apr-2024

N/A

Tuesday 2-Apr-2024

N/A

Wednesday 3-Apr-2024

7:00 pm AA meeting

Thursday 4-Apr-2024

3:10 pm Musiqhub

Friday 5-Apr-2024

10:00am Knitting Group

Sunday 7-Apr-2024

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

Love our coastline?

Have you say, Auckland Council is seeking feedback on the shoreline adaptation plan.

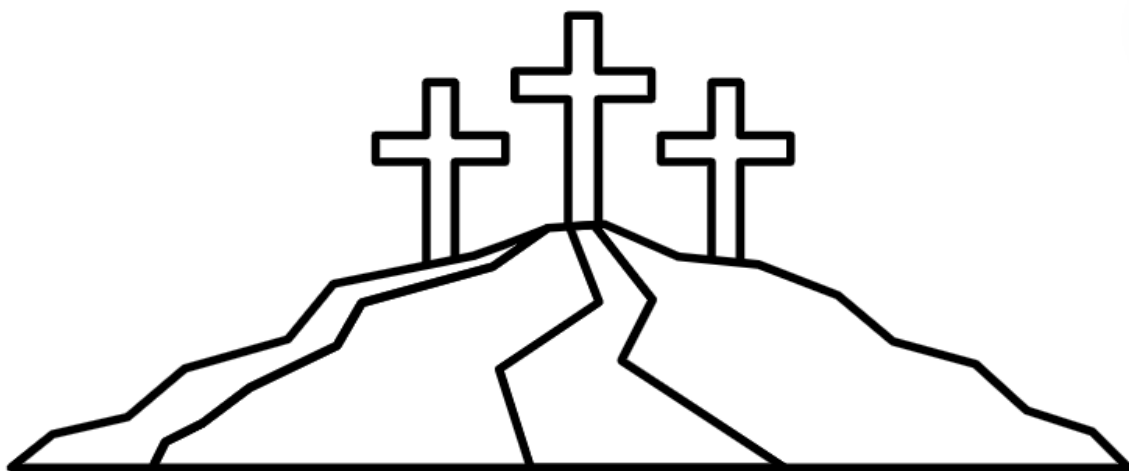
email: shorelineadaptationplans@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Visit:

<https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/shoreline-adaptation-plans-tamaki-river-inlet-and-bucklands-beach-to-pine-harbour>



*Christ is Risen
Hallelujah*



Songs for Today



1. Jesus Christ is Risen today
2. Lead me to Calvary
3. Amazing Grace
4. The Old Rugged Cross

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Wed/Fri 9am-12pm, Thurs 11am-2pm	
Phone: 09 534 2305	Email: office@stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Website:	https://stjohnsbb.org.nz	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Anne Purcell	
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 31-Mar-2024	Next Week's Helpers 7-Apr-2024
Preacher/ Service Leader	Jeff Odhiambo	Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Jeanette Li Albert Ip, Winnie Wong	Rahil John
Projector & Sound Desk	Michael Zhao	Collin Franke
Reader	Trevor Haigh	Felicity Vincer
Intercessor	Joan Haigh	Jeff Odhiambo
HC set up	Judy and Mavis	Alison Stanton
HC Serving team	Judy McDonald	Olga Ferriera
Prayer ministry	Joan Jones	Anne Purcell
Sunday School	N/A	N/A
Welcome Desk	With ushering	With ushering
Usher	Trevor Haigh	Olga Ferriera
Counters	Nessie Crawford Albert Ip	Nessie Crawford
Morning Tea	Miranda Haung Grace Tay	Jeanette Li Hong-Yan Song