

*Welcome! Haere mai!*

## **St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai**



**Sunday, 22 December 2024**

*Liturgy: p.404*

*Advent 4*

*Psalm 80: 1-7*

### *Greetings:*

The office is closing this week, so this newsletter will be the last that you receive until the week starting 7 Jan 2025. The sentences and collects for each of the Sunday services from Christmas Eve to Epiphany 1 will be in a separate printed pew sheet.

I am grateful for all the many things that different people do here, for one another and for our wider community. While we might not be as active as once we were, we continue to make our presence felt in simple ways. We will for example, continue to make our facilities available for the coordination of care for our local community in the event of a natural disaster, and act as a Community Emergency Hub in conjunction with others, as part of a new city-wide emergency response plan. The City Council will run an event here in February (date to be confirmed), and all local residents and businesses will be invited to discover how it will work. There will be things we can all do, whether it be simply talking to people who feel dislocated or making tea ... more details to follow.

Please take care over the holiday period. Make every opportunity to catch up with friends and family, but take time also to rest and appreciate every blessing.

*May the joy of the angels, the excitement of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, and the peace of the Christ be with you this Christmas season and forever. Amen.*

Grace and peace, *Tony*

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 22 December 2024**

### **Sentence:**

Blessed is She who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to Her by the Lord. *Luke 1:45*

### **Collect:**

**God, faithful and true, make us eager with expectation, as we look for the fulfilment of Your promise in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Hear this prayer for Your love's sake. Amen.**

**OT Reading** *Micah 5: 2-5a*

**NT Reading** *Hebrews 10: 5-10*

**Gospel** *Luke 1: 39-45*

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we pray for those who must migrate, rebuild or change their way of life in the face of an ever-changing climate, and for the people of the Rotorua Parish & their clergy.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, James F, Hazel, Lynda, Lawrence, Adam, Sheryl T.

### Foodbank

Christmas is a particularly hard time for families in need so we ask that you give generously to our Foodbank collection as we lead up to Christmas. Treats for Christmas will be most welcome. In the last 12 months the Tauranga Foodbank has assisted 7,862 households, including 12,000 children. Sadly the need in our community is great - any assistance is much appreciated.

### Lavender Craft

Lavender Craft have a few Christmas goodies still available – delicious small Christmas cakes and gluten free Christmas cake (\$15). Please contact Liss (576 9103).

### Parish Office

The office will be closed from 21 December to 6 January.

#### **This Week Beginning: 23 December**

**Tuesday**      7.00 pm Christmas Cakes and Carols  
                    8.00 pm Carols and Eucharist

**Wednesday**    9.30 am Christmas Day Eucharist

**Op Shop**      10.00 am - 1.00 pm Monday  
                    Closed 1pm 23 December to 5 January

**Playgroup**    Re-opens 21 January

**Toy Library**   Re-opens 14 January

#### **Service for Sunday 29 December –**

9.30 am Holy Communion

## **Contact Us**

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