



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 23 December 2018

**"Being the Gospel to all
People"**

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.

This week's theme: 'Welcoming the Goodness of God'

Focus Scripture: Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Other Readings: Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10



Luke 1:39-45 New International Version (NIV)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

Next Sunday: 30 December 2018

Next week's theme: 'Universal Glory'

Focus Scripture: Psalm 148

Other Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Prayer points for: Brenda Ryan and Mary Hall for good health. For the families of both Loas Toun and Joyce Leach as they mourn the loss of a loved one. For two people, one to be our Presbyterian representative and another to be our second Anglican representative. Prayer for both St Johns and Lorraine (and family) as we move into this time of change.

Ministerial Vacancy, the First Step.

The Leadership Team met with the Church Partners on Tuesday night, the 11th Dec. Of the eleven members, ten were able to attend and following briefings from the three Partner Church Representatives a vote was held to determine our **Coordinating Partner** (to be called Appointing Partner after July 2019) from now on.

The result was a substantial majority vote for the **Anglican** Church to take this role. In due course Archdeacon Michael Berry will take up the management role for the Anglican Church. As a consequence his responsibility will include guidance in the process for appointment of a minister, overseeing the daily running of the church, as well as offering pulpit supply on Sundays. He may appoint someone on his behalf.

Although the Anglican Church now has the role of overseeing the vacancy, it does not confine the selection of a future appointee to come from that denomination. St Johns can broaden its outlook to find the best considered candidate from any of the three partner Churches and beyond.

If you have any questions please ask any member of the Leadership Team.

OFFERINGS at the 7 pm and 10.30 pm Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be donated to the Christian World Service's response to the Indonesian earthquake.

Christmas Services @ St Johns

Lessons and Carols Sunday **23rd**

@ 9:30 am

Christmas Eve Family **24th**

@ 7pm

Christmas Eve Carols and

Communion **24th from 10:30 pm**

Christmas Day

@ 9:30 am



Kindergarten Playground update: Over the Christmas period we will be re-covering the downstairs playground black matting with an artificial grass. We are installing a drain along the edge of the concrete pathway. We will be removing the fixed climbing equipment. We are negotiating with the kindergarten about a plan to create a seating area and bark ground cover of 4.3 by 4.4m around the base of Beryl's Tree. Lorraine



Thank you to all who assisted with the carol singing at Avril's home, the Highlands Retirement Village and the Bruce McLaren Retirement Village. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by the residents.

The Francis-Dittmers are leaving

Lorraine's last day with us will be Sunday the 3rd of February. The combined service will be followed by our farewell to Lorraine and family, and a shared lunch to follow. It is fourteen and a half years since they joined us, we have enjoyed significant participation of the family in our church life.

In recognition of the service to St Johns, a presentation will be offered to Lorraine on the 3rd of February. If you would like to contribute towards a gift, please make a donation in a plain envelope with Lorraine written on the outside, and place in the offering or deliver to the church office.

Thank you. Alan Vickers, Session Clerk

Christian Broadcasting at Christmas - from 6 pm on Christmas Eve - 29 Hours Airtime on three networks – Newstalk ZB, Radio Sport and RadioLIVE

RadioLIVE's Carly Flynn will be a guest announcer, presenting a special CBA Christmas Eve family show with friends from Parenting Place. For programme times and details, visit cba.org.nz/Christmas.

Christmas Eve Helpers	7pm Family Service 24 December
Preacher	Rev Lorraine Francis
Keyboard	Rahil John
Projector	Aimie Ma
Sound Desk	William Francis-Dittmer
Reader	Lorraine Francis
Intercessor	Lorraine Francis

Christmas Eve Helpers	10.30 pm Carols and Worship 24 December
Preacher	Rev Lorraine Francis
Keyboard	Joshua Wong & Rahil John
Projector	Alison Stanton
Sound Desk	Alan Vickers
Reader	Felicity Vincer
Intercessor	Ian Dittmer
HC set up	Alan Vickers
HC Serving team	Alan Vickers, Alison Stanton, Ian Dittmer

Christmas Day	9.30 am 25 December
Preacher	Rev Lorraine Francis
Keyboard	Aimie Ma
Projector	Marsden Cheong
Sound Desk	Ian Dittmer
Reader	Rev Lorraine Francis
Intercessor	Alex Francis-Dittmer
HC set up	Rev Lorraine Francis
HC Serving team	Rev Lorraine Francis, Ian Dittmer plus one

	This Week's Helpers (23 December)	Next Week's Helpers (30 Dec)
Preacher:	Alan Vickers, Belle Fang	Rev Lorraine Francis
Keyboard	Joshua Wong	Aimie Ma
Projector	Alison Stanton	Alison Stanton
Sound Desk	William Francis-Dittmer	Bob Corbett
Reader	To be arranged	Liz Speer
Intercessor	To be arranged	Joan Rutherford
HC set up	N/A	Joan Jones
HC Serving team	N/A	Rev Lorraine Francis, Joan Jones, David Hall
Prayer ministry		Alan Vickers
Welcome Desk	Joan Rutherford	
Ushers	Dick and Judy McDonald	Can you help?
Counters	Dick McDonald, Li Ying Zhang	Can you help?
Morning Tea	Sue Chang, Sha Sha Kang	Can you help?
Flowers	St Johns	St Johns