



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 15 December

"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 some time with us.

Today's theme: "Listen, God is Calling -Joy"

Focus Scripture: Luke 1:46-55



Franciscan Richard Rohr notes that Mary's Song ("The Magnificat") is an elegant example of Jesus' teachings about the obstacles to the coming reign of God. Rohr calls these impediments the three "p's": power, prestige, and possessions. Mary sings to seeing how "the proud," "the powerful," and "the rich" will be "scattered...brought down...sent away empty."

In addition to proclaiming a core (if difficult) truth of the Christian witness, Mary models a trusting discipleship that surrenders utterly to God's claim on her life. We never hear of Mary's worthiness, or any achievement that made her God's choice to bear the Liberator of humanity. Mary does not see herself as the actor; instead, God is the do-er and actor.

Luke 1:47-55 (NIV) Mary's Song

And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

NEXT WEEK: 22 December

Theme: 'Listen, God is calling – Light'

Focus Scripture: Lessons and Carols Service

Other Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-10, James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11

Prayer Points: Sheila as she recovers from her shoulder operation; George Morrison as he recovers from the removal of a growth on his kidney; Marie Davis for her recovery with her ongoing hip issues, John Pybus for the serious bruising on his leg, Steven Chaplin for a speedy recovery (shoulder/s) after being squished between a car and a bus, while riding his bike home from work, and for the car driver. Joy Rzoska with her ongoing medical concerns whilst in hospital..

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

The remaining December Advent Services will look like this:

Today, Sunday 15th our 9:30 am service is regular worship.

Sunday 15th at 7.00 pm we offer a Blue Christmas Service. This is an offering we make for all those who have experienced loss particularly in the past year. Sometimes that loss is of a loved one, but sometimes this is an opportunity to acknowledge the wider dimension of loss in our lives. If you know of someone who has suffered loss, and might not hear of this opportunity, please consider asking and accompanying them to this service.

Sunday 22nd at 9:30 am is our Lessons and Carols service.

Tuesday 24th at 7 pm is our Family focused Christmas Eve service.

Tuesday 24th at 10:30 pm we have a half hour of carol singing and then at 11 pm our traditional Christmas Eve service with Communion.

Tuesday 25th at 9:30 am we have our Christmas day worship celebration (with Holy Communion)

The season of Advent closes on Christmas Eve and the season of Christmas begins.

Sunday 29th December at 9:30 am is a return to regular worship.

Carol singing on 17th December. Please join us for a fun time... We gather in car park at 6pm for a 6.15pm departure (earlier because we have more stops this year). Ending as usual at Dannemora Gardens for singing and supper (bring a plate of food to share please).

THE GIFT – Live concert on the big screen.

The Gift: A fun live concert for all. Dress up if you like, for a night out at the "ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre" @ St Johns. There will be light refreshments, wine, coffee, soft drinks etc.

A DVD on the large screen. Live at Slane Castle Ireland, Celtic Woman, A new Journey. A night of singing, orchestra, choir and percussion, presenting Celtic Music including Hayley Westenra.

Show will commence at 6.30pm on Saturday 21st December 2013. Entry \$5.00 or \$10.00 per couple or family [Which includes FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 16]

Show will last approximately two hours with a 15 minute interval included.

Photography during the performance is not permitted and mobile phones must be turned off.

Our Web site is up and running – go on line and have a look www.stjohnsbb.org.nz

Special Request from the Middlemore Hospital Chaplain Middlemore Hospital has decided not to proceed with the service on Sunday 29 December, so no help with transport of patients to Worship is required. Thanks to all those who offered their help. Lorraine.

CHURCH TV : this week on www.anglicantv.net Hope you are enjoying this great Christmas season and its causing you peace, not stress! If you have some room, a small item for your bulletin this week: "A small and vulnerable baby is born."

REAL LIFE: This Sunday night (15th December) John Cowan's guest will be Murray Deeker

Auckland Presbytery Part-Time Administrative Assistant position advertisement.

Wendy Roberts the Presbytery Administrative Assistant will be concluding her service with Presbytery on the 20th December 2013. Wendy has served Presbytery well and it has been a privilege to work with her. Now....we are on the hunt for her replacement. The sort of person we want is a good communicator, understands Church processes and structure and is good at being an administrative "Jill of all trades." Do you have someone in your parish who might feel this is a task they could fulfil? If you have please pass on this information and encourage them to contact this office and speak to either Wendy, Forbes Worn or Alex Robinson. The planned cut-off date for applications is 16th December 2013, with interviews possibly later that same week. The successful applicant would be asked to commence on the 13th January 2014 when the office reopens after the Christmas/New Year break. Alex Robinson, Clerk. *Northern Presbytery*
PO Box 85 051 Harris Rd, Mt Wellington Auckland 1545 *7 Harrison Rd Mt Wellington*
Phone: 09 579 9480 northpres@vodafone.co.nz