



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

*Advent 3*



**Sentence of the Day**

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.  
*(Matthew 11: 4 – 5)*

**Collect of the Day**

**Loving God, you visited us in Jesus, and you companion us by your Holy Spirit. Assist us, we pray, to be your Good News in word and deed. This we ask in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **A Word from Jonathan**

A world that turns its back on God soon faces disruption, indeed chaos. It's easy, as a Christian, to get obsessed with order and stability as an antidote to instability. But, as any gardener will tell you, creating beauty takes a lot of activity that appears to be unlike the end product. There's nothing glamorous about improving soil quality, but it's essential. The journey should not be confused with the destination.

Similarly, it has taken many years for me to accept the foundational truth that we normally grow through unglamorous adversity. Unless we are challenged in our faith, we stagnate.

Here's a challenge for today. When God tells us we need to change, most of us think that means adjusting to a new structure, or a new liturgical approach, or a new role or duty. In short, we think God wants greater commitment. Actually, God is less interested in the outward manifestations of our faith, than he is in us. God wants us; lock, stock and barrel. What might that mean to you today?

## **Readings**

**Isaiah 35: 1 - 10**

**Psalms 146: 5 – 10** ANZPB page 370

**James 5: 7 – 10**

**Matthew 11: 2 - 11**

This morning's 8am service begins on page 476 ANZPB  
and the 9:30am service will be on the screens



All are welcome to join us after the service for a cuppa  
and fellowship over morning tea in The Gathering Place.

## **Nine Lessons and Carols 7pm Sunday 21 December**

Join us in the Gathering Place for mince tarts,  
and cold drinks after the service.

## **December**

Sunday	14	Advent services 8am and 9:30am – JOY
Sunday	21	Advent services 8am and 9:30am – LOVE
Sunday	21	Nine Lessons and Carols 7pm in the church
Wednesday	24	Family Christmas service 5pm in the church
Thursday	25	Christmas Day services 8am and 9:30am in church

## **The Candle of Joy**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ and we lit the Candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world. Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the wilderness waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each one of us.

We light this candle in Joy.

**On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.**



**This Sunday morning Elena will talk about the work of Slavic Gospel Association in the orphanages across the former Soviet Union nations around Christmastime and throughout the year.**

The project is called Immanuel's Child CHRISTMAS outreach. These celebrations have brought great joy to many children, as they have been given individual

Christmas gifts and Bibles. With each gift, they are also presented with a signed Bethlehem star, which represents someone who has committed to pray for them. With this personal gift, along with hearing the Good News of the Gospel, many are coming to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

You will have an opportunity to get a Bethlehem Star Ornament where you could write your name if you choose to support this outreach. The stars will be sent out on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December in order to get to the SGA team in time for January (Russian Orthodox Christmas) when they travel around orphanages.

## **Regular Parish Activities**

**Sunday 9:30am service** – children's ministry available during service

**Monday 10am Home Group** - in members' homes.  
(1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays) Ring Ursula 094798036.

**Tuesday 10am Women's Fellowship** – Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday)  
Ring Jenny Shaw 021 953 940

**Tuesday Vestry 7pm** - The Gathering Place (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)

**Wednesday 10:00am - Holy Communion Service**

**Friday Contemplative Prayer Group 1pm** - Church (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday)  
Stephen Warnes

## **Parish Contacts**

**Vicar** Rev. Jonathan Gale 021 254 3791  
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On Facebook: [St John's Anglican Church – Campbells Bay](#)

## **Feedback welcome**

If you have feedback on any aspect of parish activities,  
please do contact the wardens Chris and Sandy – contacts as above  
The Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist Campbells Bay  
The Diocese of Auckland Registered Charity No. CC31449  
GST 110-247-184

## **St John's depends on the generous giving of parishioners and friends**

If you would like to make a donation or support us through planned  
giving, please contact our Parish Office. The bank account for donations:  
Anglican Church of St John Campbells Bay – Westpac Mairangi Bay  
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