



Sunday 21st December 2025

Advent 4



Sentence of the Day

²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' *(Matthew 1: 21)*

Collect of the Day

Lord our God, manifest in Jesus our Saviour, give to us the grace to know that we are called, not so much to fix others, as we are to be fixed by you. May we resist our pride, and come to you, for you are ever ready to receive us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

A Word from Jonathan

Like many a priest, at the beginning of Advent, I make a point of getting the balance right: this is a season of both judgement and of rescue. The Second Coming of Jesus is as much a part of Advent, as is the arrival of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

And like many a priest, by the time we approach Christmas Day, I feel as though I have done my duty to judgement, and can now focus on what has always excited me about Christmas (no, not toys, tinsel, turkey and Christmas pudding) but the baby Jesus, born in a manger, welcomed by angels and shepherds; to say nothing of his proud parents, Mary and Joseph.

And then I realize yet again, as happens each year, that there is no conflict between judgement and salvation. They are two sides of the same coin. Judgment follows sin as surely as night follows day. But in this case, before night can fall, the saving work of Jesus brings, not only an escape from judgement, but fulness of life eternal. The coming of the King means the coming of the kingdom; and we are citizens. Alleluia!

Readings

Isaiah 7: 10 - 16

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19 ANZPB page 291

Romans 1: 1 – 7

Matthew 1: 18 - 25

This morning's 8am service begins on page 404 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 tonight Sunday 21 December

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

Baptism At our 9:30am service this morning Rev'd Stephen Warnes will bless the baptism of Jack Lawrence Greenwood and celebrate with his parents John and Sarah, godparent Rachel, sister Emily and grandparents Stuart and Marion visiting from the UK.

Candle Lighting Prayer

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the Candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy.

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. Scripture tells us "There's no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4: 18) God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to friends, God's love is there.

We light this candle in Love.

On this day, we remember God is Love.

Children's Ministry / Activities

is available during 9:30am Sunday services in The Gathering Place.

From Elena: Thank you so much everyone for your heartfelt response to the Christmas outreach. Your giving and your prayers are greatly appreciated. I've got 17 stars and \$200 cash on Sunday and \$700 via online banking. Please let me know if you would like a personal receipt (note, donations sent overseas are NOT tax-deductible).

Please let me know if you would like to invite me to your homegroup. I'm always happy to share the wonderful stories of God's grace.

Family Christmas Eve service – 5pm Wednesday 24 December

– come along and join the chaos of excited children, tired parents and the joy of joining in singing lively carols and hearing again the story of Jesus' birth.

Christmas Day services at 8am and 9:30am

**NB: There will be one 9am service only
on Sundays 28 December and 4 and 11 January.**

8am and 9:30am services will resume on Sunday 18 January 2026.

**Wednesday morning 10am services
will resume on Wednesday 4 February 2026.**

Regular Parish Activities

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

Monday 10am Home Group - in members' homes.

(1st & 3rd Mondays) Ring Ursula 094798036.

Tuesday 10am Women's Fellowship – Hall (1st Tuesday)

Ring Jenny Shaw 021 953 940

Tuesday Vestry 7pm - The Gathering Place (4th Tuesday)

Wednesday 10:00am - Holy Communion Service

Friday Contemplative Prayer Group 1pm - Church (2nd 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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