



# St George's

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

*All who enter here be reconciled*

25<sup>th</sup> December with The Rev'd John Hebenton

## Christmas Day and Boxing Day



Welcome to worship at St. George's.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Don't forget to sign in and mask up. - All Services required vaccine passes

**Sentence:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1, 14

### Prayer for the Day

God of wonder, source of all joy,  
this is the time of hope and wonder;  
your bed laid first among the poor;  
your birth declared first to the humble:  
Guide us to seek you first amongst the poor,  
the vulnerable and the unprivileged  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever, Amen

### Psalm: 96

Psalm Response: Glory to God – Creator, Word and Spirit

**As God always was, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**First Reading:** Isa 9:2-7 Bible Page 555

**Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14 Bible Page 969

**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-14 Bible Page 832

**All are welcome to receive communion in one kind.**

**Please line up with your masks on.**

**Prayers and anointing for healing are available during communion at the back of the church.**

***Please keep this time quiet for those who are praying***

## **Theme for the week:**

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! I wonder what looks like this year. Too many of us are tired. Delta shifted the goal post and the rules changed. This has left many feeling confused and stressed. People are increasingly frustrated, impatient, annoyed, even angry with those they disagree with, and those they blame for what is happening. It can be hard to even find ways to talk. And still covid rages on and the future remains very uncertain. Merry Christmas!

I recently read Daniel Ladinsky's poem "God Would Kneel Down"<sup>1</sup>. The last line reads I have come to learn: God adores His creation.

For the great Franciscan theologian John Duns Scotus, this is what Christmas is all about. Not to fix anything or to save anyone, but God being born in a food trough as a statement of how much God adores God's creation. God loves and is committed to every part of this world and every person. Christmas is a dangerous story filled with hope, love, joy and God's covenant love. I would invite you to find ways of sharing all this with those in need this Christmas. I especially invite you to support the CWS Christmas Appeal

So I hope this Christmas you can find some quiet to reflect on how this story reminds you that God adores this world. What does God desire for you and this world this Christmas? What do you hope for you family and those you love?

## **Prayer**

**Our community:** We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Pyes Pa and Merivale. We particularly pray for the ministry of Centrepont, Whanau Aroha, Hodgson House, Pyes Pa Country Lodge.

**We pray for those who are dying, sick, in hospital or in any other kind of need,** parishioners in rest homes and those who receive home communion and any others you hold in your heart.

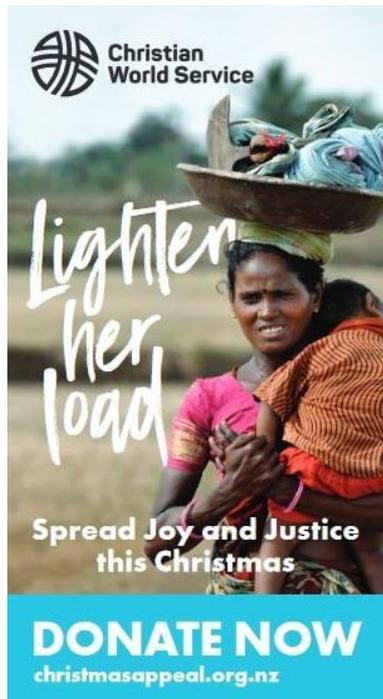
**Our Church:** Today we pray for the people of Hawke's Bay Parish & their clergy, the Tararua Service Manager and the people of the Woodville Parish & their Ministry support team.

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<sup>1</sup> From '[Love Poems From God](#)' by [Daniel Ladinsky](#).

**Our World:** Today we pray for the ongoing dedicated work of Mission partners over the years from NZ, Australia and England and the short-term volunteers

## **Notices:**



### ***Lighten Her Load ... CWS Christmas Appeal***

Muneeswari (*pictured below right*) knows the joy of justice. A little over a year ago she was humiliated by a supervisor because of her race and gender. With the help of the local women's *sangam* or association, he had to publicly apologise for his cruelty. She joined the *sangam* and now has a house registered in her own name and her pay has tripled. Dalits like Muneeswari have been downtrodden for centuries. A simple act of justice has transformed her life and those of her family.

Your gift this Christmas will assist people crying out for climate justice, rights justice, Covid justice, economic justice, and peace with justice in the world. Please make

your donation in the envelope provided or online at:

<http://christmasappeal.org.nz/donate/>.

January 2022						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

**Duty Rosters:** We need your help. We still have a few slots for volunteers to do the greeting, readings, prayers and powerpoint for January 2022, 9:00am in-person services. If you can help, please add your name to the Roster in the foyer. Those helping in these ministries must be double vaxed.



**Offertory**, please place your offerings in the bowl on the font either as you arrive or as you leave.



**Home Communion** – If you would like to have regular home communion then please let John or Ainsley know



**Parish Picnic** –this 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022, after 9.00am Service in Church grounds. More details soon.



**Church Service-** 8:30am and 10:00 in-person services will resume from Sunday, 6th February 2018



**For All the Saints Book** - Liturgical Version, Biographical Volume 1, and Biographical Volume 2 at \$34.00 each available in the Parish Office.



**The Anglican Parish of Gate Pa team and the Aotearoa Bike Challenge Team.** Throughout February you are invited to join the Anglican Parish of Gate Pa and hop on our bikes and ride towards a cleaner, greener, happier Aotearoa New Zealand! Plus, we'll be riding to build up points and win prizes! It doesn't matter if you haven't ridden in years or you're a committed commuter, everyone's welcome. Every ride you do counts! Register at [www.lovetoride.net/bop](http://www.lovetoride.net/bop) before 11:59 pm on Christmas Eve and you could win a brand new eBike worth \$3,999!

**This week in the Parish:**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day Service, 9:00am

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December Boxing Day 9:00am Service

**Service Next Week: 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 at 9am only**

Liturgy Page 456

Psalm: 72:1-7,10-15

First Reading: Isa 60:1-6

Second Reading: Eph 3:1-12

Gospel: Matt 2:1-12



**Dates to note in your Diary:**

- **Summer Together-** from December 26<sup>th</sup> until 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 there will be one Sunday service at 9:00am
- **Parish Office re-opens Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**
- **Vestry Meet, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm via Zoom**
- **Parish Picnic, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022**
- **Ash Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

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*Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known*