



# St George's

**Anglican Parish of Gate Pa**

*All who enter here be reconciled*

6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with The **Rev'd John Hebenton**  
Year B Advent 2



There is morning tea in the church lounge after this Service.  
Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

## **Liturgy page 456**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

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

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

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

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Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15

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Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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## **Sentence:**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. *Luke 3.4*

## **Prayer for the Day**

Let us pray

[for a sense of longing and expectation] Silence

Holy God,

your prophets call us to look forward to the dawn of a new day;

may we who witness the promised springtime

prepare the way for the coming Sun of Justice,

Jesus your Christ, our liberator

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All are welcome to receive communion**

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

## Theme for the Week

This has been a tough year, a wilderness year. For some wilderness is a place of fear and death; for some peace and stillness; for others where you go to discover God anew, to know again who we are in God and what is ours to do. Whatever our experience or understanding of wilderness, some good news would be welcome.

The writers of Second Isaiah (Isaiah 40-66) offered good news to those who lived in the wilderness in exile. Jerusalem and her temple were gone. They were forsaken by God. But here was good news. What good news for us do we hear in these words?

A number of commentators suggest an alternative understanding of the first line of Mark. It is the title, not the first sentence. The whole of Mark is the beginning of THE Good News. Good News shaped by Isaiah. Good News lived by Jesus. We are part of that ongoing Good News. It has been hard to hang on to that this year. We feel like the grass that withers, or those flowers that fade. The world is in chaos. Pandemics reign. The world as we knew it has ground to a halt. The climate is changing.

Economies are crumbling. We seem powerless in the face of all that is happening.

And then there is John the Baptist. His voice comes from the wilderness. He stands as Elijah. He invites us back to our true place. He reminds us that hope is not found in the way things used to be. Nor is peace. Peace is found when we let go as John let go. He reminds us that Peace is found in simplicity, humility, servanthood. Peace is found in the radical call of the Jesus. Peace is found in God's faithfulness to the renewal of creation through the restoration of humanity, made and living as the image of God the loving creator.

Advent is an important season. It is so much more than preparing for Christmas. It is about hearing Good News. It is about becoming Good News. It is about nurturing hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives. And that needs time. A friend is advocating for a #Slow Advent. A way of living that seeks to not let Advent be so easily cluttered with shopping, end-of-year stuff, and preparing-for-summer-holidays. He says , "Slow Advent is saying – less is more: live Advent slowly, and try to add less. As Slow Food is to Fast Food – so Slow Advent is to most people's Fast "Season of Advent".<sup>1</sup>

In our wilderness may we live slowly into Good News and be people of hope, peace, joy, and love.

## Prayer

**Our community** - We pray for the communities of Gate Pa, Greerton, Pyes Pa, The Lakes and Merivale, especially for those badly affected by Covid-19, either through the death of a loved one, ill-health, or changes to employment. We pray for all those

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<sup>1</sup> Bosco Peters <<https://liturgy.co.nz/slowadvent>>

seeking to bring healing and hope, particularly health workers and organisations like Awhina House, Merivale Community Centre, Te Tuinga Whanau, and Foodbank.

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 hearts.

**Our Church:** *Hui Amorangi ki Te Manawa o te Wheke*: Bishop Ngarahu Katene & the Rohe of Tauranga, Te Puke, Whakatane/Ruatoki, Te Kaha, Ohinemutu, Te Ngae, Murupara, Taupo.

The people of the *Otumoetai Parish* & their clergy: Sue Beverly (Vicar), Sue Genner, Retired: Geoff Crawshaw, Debbie Garrett

**Wider Church:** Today we pray for Papua New Guinea. the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (ACPNG) faces many challenges as it continues to bring hope to the many communities it ministers to.

## Notices



**Duty Rosters for 9.30am services** – We need people to fulfil a range of ministries in our Sunday services. John is willing to help you with what the roles entail. Please talk to John or fill in the roster.



**Parish Social Night** – Friday 11th December at 5pm. All Welcome. **Oasis Bar and Grill** Come for a chat at 1334 Cameron Road, Greerton,



**Family Carol Service and Nativity Film, Sunday December 20th, 6.30pm.** There will be coffee and cake (if you bring it) in the Lounge after the service. We need readers please



**On Christmas Eve** we offer a short 7pm service for families. It is interactive so the children are involved in the story. Last year Bonnie and John had to run it on their own. We need helpers to run this service. Family and visitors welcome. Please contact John or Patricia to help.

**Christmas Rosters:** We need people to fill all the roles for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services, and for all the Sundays in until end of January 2021. Please add your name to the roster in the foyer.



**Food For Foodbank:** Please keep your generous contributions coming to help the Foodbank over this festive season.



**Handel's Messiah** with **NZbAROK** at St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Corner Elizabeth Street/Cameron Road, on Saturday, 5 December AT 7.30pm with Scholars Baroque Aotearoa. Musical Director Chaliun Poppy. Tickets available at door.



**"A Christmas Carol"** dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' story - St. Peter's Anglican Church, 11 Victoria Road, Mt. Maunganui on Sunday, 13 December at 4pm. Koha.

Miriam Peevor would like any spare New World Knife Set stickers please, if you are not using them yourself. She requires rather a lot, so any donation will be greatly appreciated.

### **This week in the Parish:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - 9.30am Holy Communion  
 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
 Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Prayer Circle 9.30am  
 Pub night, 5.00pm @  
 Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 8.00am and 9.30am Holy Communion Service

### **Service Next Week 13<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3**

Liturgy page 476  
 No Psalm  
 First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
 Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24  
 Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



### **Dates to note in your Diary**

- **Family Carol Service, Sunday 20 December at 6.30pm**
- **Parish Picnic – 31 January 2021**
- **Lecture Series – January 24th, 31st, February 7th & 14th**

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