



# St George's

**Anglican Parish of Gate Pa**

*All who enter here be reconciled*

20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with **The Rev'd John Hebenton**



There is morning tea in the church lounge after the 9.30am Service.

Please join us. Visitors are very welcome.

*Please remember to turn off your cellphone during the church service*

## **Service: 404 NZPB**

**Psalm:** Magnificat (8am only)

The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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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:** 2 Sam 7: 1-11, 16

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**Second Reading:** Rom 16: 25-27

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**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-28

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## **Sentence:**

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. Luke 1.45

## **Prayer for the Day:**

Life giving God,

you prepared Mary to be the mother of Jesus;

she watched and waited for his coming.

Grant us the same courage and willingness to watch and wait,  
to greet him as Emmanuel, God with us, with Joyful hearts.

Through Jesus Christ our Liberator,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of 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.**

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

## Theme for the Week

We enter the fourth week of Advent, this time with the theme of love. And on this Sunday, we also traditionally focus on Mary.

I wonder what we think of Mary. Over the centuries she has been Mary mother of God; Mary the fourth member of the Trinity (that one didn't fly so well); Mary the eternal and blessed virgin; Mary the Theotokos (God bearer); Mary the humble, meek and obedient servant of God; or just Mary who happened to be Jesus' mother but otherwise is not so important.

The writer of Luke's gospel thought Mary was pretty important. The others are more low key in their presentation. Luke exalts Mary not as a mother, nor as the ideal women, but as the ideal disciple. Luke presents Mary as the one we should emulate if we too wish to follow her son. Like her son, Mary responds to God's outrageous request/command (does she really have a choice in this) with a combination of humble trust and obedient service – just like her son in Gethsemane. This young girl from a poor family in a poor village in the outback of Galilee has become the vehicle for God's work of salvation.

This trust changes Mary. For our Psalm we will be joining others repeating the words of Mary's radical protest song – the Magnificat. In a world where it was understood that the poor were poor and the rich and powerful were rich and powerful because that is how God made things, we have this potent and prophetic song that speaks of the importance and priority of the poor in the eyes of God. God counters all the myths that hold the poor in their place of poverty and restores them as the people of God.

As we enter the fourth week of Advent in this Covid shaped year take a moment to think about what this song might say about our world and our own society this Christmas. How does Mary help us embrace the way of love this Christmas? How does she invite us to join with her son in the Way of Love?

## Prayers

**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 Centre, Hodgson House, Pyes Pa Country Lodge and Merivale Community Centre.

**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 at this time.

**Our Church:** The people of the *Gate Pa Parish* & their clergy: John Heberton (Vicar), Retired: Joyce Crawford, Adrienne Malcolmson.

*Anglican Financial Care – Te Maru Mihinare:* Board & Staff Tamihere,

**Our World:** Today we continue to pray for the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

## Notices



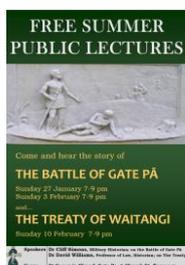
**Christmas Roster Sheet out now in the church foyer. Thank you everyone who has committed to a service, in some way.** Every little bit helps. A few places still open. Do not be shy. Please add your name to any duty you may be able to commit to over the Christmas and January services – all Services are at 9am.



**Parish Picnic: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January after the 9am service.** Food and drink will be provided. Cost approximately \$10 a head.



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



**Pukehinahina Summer Lectures:** We are again offering a series of talks/lectures this summer. They are

The Story of **Missionaries**, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm – 9pm, presented by Lt. Col. Dr Cliff Simons

**The Battle of Gate Pa**, on Sunday, 31st January 7pm-9pm, presented by Lt. Col. Dr Cliff Simons and Buddy Mikaere

**Why cringe at Waitangi** on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 7pm – 9pm, hopefully presented by Rev Dr Hirini Kaa (TBC),

**History Under Our Feet** on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 7pm-9pm, with archaeologist Ken Phillips speaking on the world they are doing around the Tauranga Moana area.



**CWS appeals for When I was Hungry – help families struggling to feed their children, especially in this pandemic.** – This year

the CWS Christmas Appeal focuses on food. Let us be generous sharing the love of Christmas with those in need. The Christmas appeal donation forms and leaflets are in the foyer or Donations can be made: online at [christmasappeal.org.nz](http://christmasappeal.org.nz) ; or by phone at 0800 74 73 72; or by post to: CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.

**Service Next Week 27<sup>th</sup> December with Reverend Debbie Garrett**  
**Christmas 1**

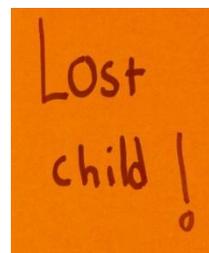
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Psalm: 148

Isa 61: 10-62:3

Gal 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 22-40





# Christmas at St. George's



*Christmas Carol Service*  
20<sup>th</sup> December at **7pm**

*Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December*  
Family Service **7pm**  
Carols at **11pm**

“Midnight Communion Service” at **11.30pm**

*Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December*  
Family Eucharist at **9am**

## *Summer Together*

From December 27<sup>th</sup> until 31<sup>st</sup> January there will be one Sunday service at **9am** followed by morning tea,

8am and 9.30am will resume from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February

The Parish Office will be closed until  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Vicar	John Hebenton	021 679 202 -	<a href="mailto:john.hebenton@waiapu.com">john.hebenton@waiapu.com</a>
Ministers	The Congregation		
Parish Administrator	Patricia Price	578 7916	<a href="mailto:admin.gatepa@waiapu.com">admin.gatepa@waiapu.com</a>
Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366	
People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stgeorgesgatepa.com">www.stgeorgesgatepa.com</a>		
<b>Facebook Page</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican">https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican</a>		
<b>Vicars blog</b>	<a href="http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/">http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/</a>		

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St George's Anglican Church, Gate Pa in the Diocese of Waiapu  
*Knowing Jesus and making Jesus Known*

