



1 December 2024

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



This Sunday is the First Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new Church year, Year C. Our Gospel readings for this new year will primarily be from the Gospel of Luke.

As you may know, “**Advent**” (the Latin word *adventus*) means “coming,” and this is the time of preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus. People often forget that there are two parts to this season. Part one (until 16th Dec) looks to the future. Part 2 (17th to 24th) looks to the past. Both help us to live in faith in the present.

The beginning of Advent asks us to look to the future for the second coming of Christ. This part of Advent has little to do with remembering the Christ child born in Bethlehem. During this time, we primarily recall the stories of our ancestors in faith who lived with such expectations and eventually saw them fulfilled when Jesus was born. We are not waiting for the birth of a Saviour. He is already born into our world at that first Christmas! During Advent, the stories of our ancestors become our own story. We remember these great stories because they give us hope today as we now prepare for the Second Coming of Christ.

In the second part of Advent, we recall the first coming of God in flesh through the birth of Christ. This preparation teaches us an important lesson about Christmas. God was born into our world and took on our flesh. This incarnation continues to unfold in our current time and place. Christmas does not simply remember a past event as if it were over and done with. Christmas encourages us to live in hope and faith that God will continue to enter our world and bring about God's reign.

As Advent begins, let us live in joyful and spiritual expectation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yukiko

News & upcoming events

In the last newsletter, the new vestry members were announced, but it needs to be corrected as follows:

Valerie Churchill, John Churchill, Dorothy Shultz, Gary Wells, Patrick Harris, Bruce Goertz, In Cheol Kim, Robert Heeps, Karenne West, Christian Nwarueze.



This week, we made a trip to Long Bay beach! It was a lovely day and we all enjoyed!



Settler's Morning Tea: Christmas Party!

Next meeting: **18 December** Wednesday at **10 am** at Settler's Lounge. This will be last morning tea for the year. Beginning again Wednesday February 19th 2025.

Advent Study Group@ Holy Cross

Tuesday Mornings 3, 10, 17 December at 10: 30 am-12 pm.

All **are** welcome!



Christmas gifts for children and mothers at ATWC

We are again collecting new inexpensive Christmas gifts (**brand-new toys**) for children at ATWC. A collection basket will be in church on this Sunday. Gifts are to be left unwrapped.

Christmas Services

Holy Cross

24th Dec 7:30 pm

Joint Christmas Carol service with
Catholic Church

24th 8:00 pm Joint Christmas Eve Service

25th 10:30 am Christmas Service



St Michael's and All Angels

24th 8 pm Joint Christmas Eve Service with Shore Grace Church

25th 9 am Christmas Service

We pray for

- World AIDS day (1st December); ask God's healing presence on millions of people living with AIDS and HIV
- Public Healthcare workers and the health of people in NZ as the Public Service Association has announced the health agency is proposing to cut nearly 1500 jobs.
- Our Advent journey!

This Week's Question

What did Jesus compare the end times to?

- a. A grand festival
- b. A silent night
- c. A trap
- d. A bountiful harvest
- e. A royal procession

Readings

	<u>1st December</u>	<u>8th December</u>
1 st Reading:	Jer 33:14-16	Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm	Ps 25:1-9	Luke 1:68-79
2 nd Reading:	1 Thess 3:9-13	Phil 1:3-11
Gospel:	Luke 21:25-36	Luke 3:1-6

This week's summary:

1 st Reading:	In the 9 th century BC the Jewish nation had spilt into two kingdoms, Judah in the south and Israel in the north. Jeremiah, 300 years later, foretells a restored nation centred on Jerusalem.
2 nd Reading:	Thessalonica was the capital of Macedonia. Paul encourages the small vulnerable church there.
Gospel:	Jesus speaks to the disciples and others about the signs that the kingdom of God is near.

Sentence

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.
Luke 21:28

Collect of the Day

**Come, O come Emmanuel,
you are the way, the truth and the life; Come, living Saviour come
to your world which waits for you.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross (Andrew)

Opening:	Once in Royal David's City
Gospel:	Mary did you know
Offertory:	Silent Night
Recession:	Mary's born child

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>1st December</u>	<u>8th December</u>
Sacristan	Alison Coughlan	Karenne West
Welcomer	Ria Gormley	Trish Duncan
1 Readings	Christian	John Churchill
2 Readings	Dorothy Meyer	Valerie Churchill
Presiding	Yukiko	Les
Prayers	Yukiko	Rhona Stace
TV Setup & Slides	Graham Wood	InCheol Kim
Morning Tea	Karenne West	Valerie & June
Flowers	Ria Gormley	Diana Harris

St Michaels

	<u>1st December</u>	<u>8th December</u>
Welcome & Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Presiding	Yukiko	Bruce Goertz

This Week's Answer:

C : a trap

The day of the Lord will come unexpectedly, like a trap.

(Luke 21:34)

Liturgical Colour: Purple

Contacts

<u>Vicar</u>	The Rev'd Yukiko Wakui- Khaw
Confidential Email	Vicar@agac.org.nz
Mobile	021 047 4753
<u>Minister</u>	The Rev'd Les Doss
Phone	(09) 415 7619
<u>Deacon</u>	The Rev'd Bruce Goertz
<u>Minister's Warden</u>	Trish Duncan
Mobile	027 767 5904
<u>People's Warden</u>	Dorothy Shultz
<u>Treasurer</u>	Valerie Churchill
Email	treasurer@agac.org.nz
<u>Secretary</u>	Patrick Harris
Email	secretary@agac.org.nz
<u>Accounts</u>	In-Cheol Kim
Email	accounts@agac.org.nz
<u>Music</u>	Andrew Ireland
Email	agamd.treasure@gmail.com
<u>Property and Rentals</u>	John Churchill
Email	property@agac.org.nz

Feedback welcome: If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please do contact the wardens, Beatrix & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Church

www.agac.org.nz

Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00

1st December – 1st Sunday of Advent Year C

Advent prayer

*Holy One,
awaken my heart,
quiet my mind,
open the door of my being
to perceive your presence.
Settle what stirs endlessly within me.
Quiet the voice of haste and hurry.
Awaken my inner senses to recognize
your love hiding beneath the frenzy.
Enfold me in your attentiveness.
Wrap a mantle of mindfulness
around every part of my days.
I want to welcome you with joy
and focus on your dwelling place.
Abundant peace,
Joyce Rupp*

