



albany⁺greenhithe
anglican church

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



8 December 2024

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Last week, we embarked on an Advent journey together by lighting the candle of **hope** on the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath includes many symbols to help us think about Christ and his gifts. I particularly like the idea that the wreath itself is in the shape of a circle. A circle has no beginning and no end. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no end to God and that God's love and caring are forever. The light from the candles - which grows stronger each Sunday in Advent, reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

On the second Sunday Advent, we are lighting the candle of **Peace**. The word "**Peace**" is derived from the Hebrew word "**Shalom**" which occurs over 250 times in the Old Testament. In modern English, the word "**peace**" tends to mean something like "calm, tranquillity, or the lack of conflict." While the biblical concept of shalom encompasses this sort of peace, it is only a part of what God promised his people in the days before the first advent of Jesus Christ. Shalom also means "wholeness;" the restoration and unification of that which is broken. It is the reconciliation of *all things*—people to people, people to the earth, people to God—all towards one another.

This season invites us to prepare ourselves to bring peace to us, in our families, and in our societies. For this, we need to have Jesus who is coming because Jesus himself is **Peace**.

May this blessed season form us like Christ and fill us with peace as we prepare ourselves for his comings and welcome him in the cribs of our hearts.

Yukiko

News & upcoming events



This week, we did waterplay in paddling pools outside of the Church!



Settler's Morning Tea:

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 **10 & 17 December** at **10: 30 am-12 pm**.

ATWC Christmas Appeal – Aroha Shared ...

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated toys for the Christmas Appeal. They have now been collected and sent on.

Auckland City Mission:

Please consider making special food donations across the next two Sundays (8th and 15th) for the City Mission. Donated items should be non-perishable items such as canned food, spread, and pasta. Also, it would be nice for the food parcels to include treat food such as Christmas mince pies, biscuits, and nuts. I will take whatever we have collected to the City Mission office on the 19th December.

We pray for

- The Anglican Trust for Women and Children and the Auckland City Mission as they gear up to support Aucklanders with food and gifts over the Christmas Season.
- the lives affected by the air pollution crisis in Pakistan
- people who feel forgotten and unloved in this Christmas season.

This Week's Question

Who is the messenger of the covenant?

- A: The king of Judah B: The angel who would be sent
C: The Lord's messenger D: The Lord

Advent Quiz

Do you know how the Advent calendar began?

- A. Chalk lines were drawn on the door to mark the days.
B. Religious families hung pictures on the wall, one for each day.
C. A candle was lit for each of the 24 days in December.
D. A mother fixed candies on a cardboard calendar for her son.
E. All the above

Readings

	<u>8th December</u>	<u>15th December</u>
1 st Reading:	Malachi 3:1-4	Zeph 3:14-20
Psalm	Luke 1:68-79	Isa 12:2-6
2 nd Reading:	Phil 1:3-11	Phil 4:4-7
Gospel:	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18

This week's summary:

- 1st Reading: The background of this reading reflects a restored temple after the 6th century BC exile and a coming day of judgement.
- 2nd Reading: This letter to the Christians in Philippi, Macedonia, is a warm-hearted expression of Paul's affection for them.

Gospel: Luke firmly anchors his gospel in the history of the tie as he introduces the ministry of John the Baptist.

Sentence

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break on us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78–79

Collect of the Day

Praise and honour to you living God for John the Baptist, and for all those voices crying in the wilderness who prepare your way. May we listen when a prophet speaks your word, and obey; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

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

Opening: Carol Our Christmas
Gospel: O Little Town of Bethlehem
Offertory: When a Child is Born
Recession: The First Noel

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>8th December</u>	<u>15th December</u>
Sacristan	Alison Caughlan	Dorothy Shultz
Welcomer	Trish Duncan	Dorothy Shultz
1 Readings	John Churchill	Alison Thompson
2 Readings	Valerie Churchill	Trish Duncan
Presiding	Les	Yukiko
Prayers	Rhona Stace	Dorothy Meyer
TV Setup & Slides	InCheol Kim	Graham Wood
Morning Tea	Valerie & June	Dorothy M & Ria
Flowers	Diana Harris	Diana Harris

St Michaels

	<u>8th December</u>	<u>15th December</u>
Welcome & Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Bruce Goertz	Brian Simpson
Presiding	Bruce Goertz	Les

This Week's Answer:

D (See Mal 3: 1)

Answer for Advent Quiz

E

Liturgical Colour: **Purple**

A Quote for Advent Season

*"The Lord is coming, always coming.
When you have ears to hear and eyes to see,
you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is
Advent;
life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."
– Henri Nouwen*



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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

An Advent Poem by John Bell

Light looked down and saw
the darkness

“I will go there” said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

“I will go there said peace”.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

“I will go there”, said love.

So he, The Lord of Light,

The Prince of Peace,

The King of love,

Came down and crept in beside us.

@catholicbishops



Christmas Services

Albany- Holy Cross

22 Dec 10:30 am : Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

24th Dec 7:30 pm Joint Christmas Carol Service with
Catholic Church

8:00 pm Joint Christmas Eve Service

25th Dec 10:30 am Christmas Service

Greenhithe – St Michael's and All Angels

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

25th Dec 9 am Christmas Service

All Welcome!