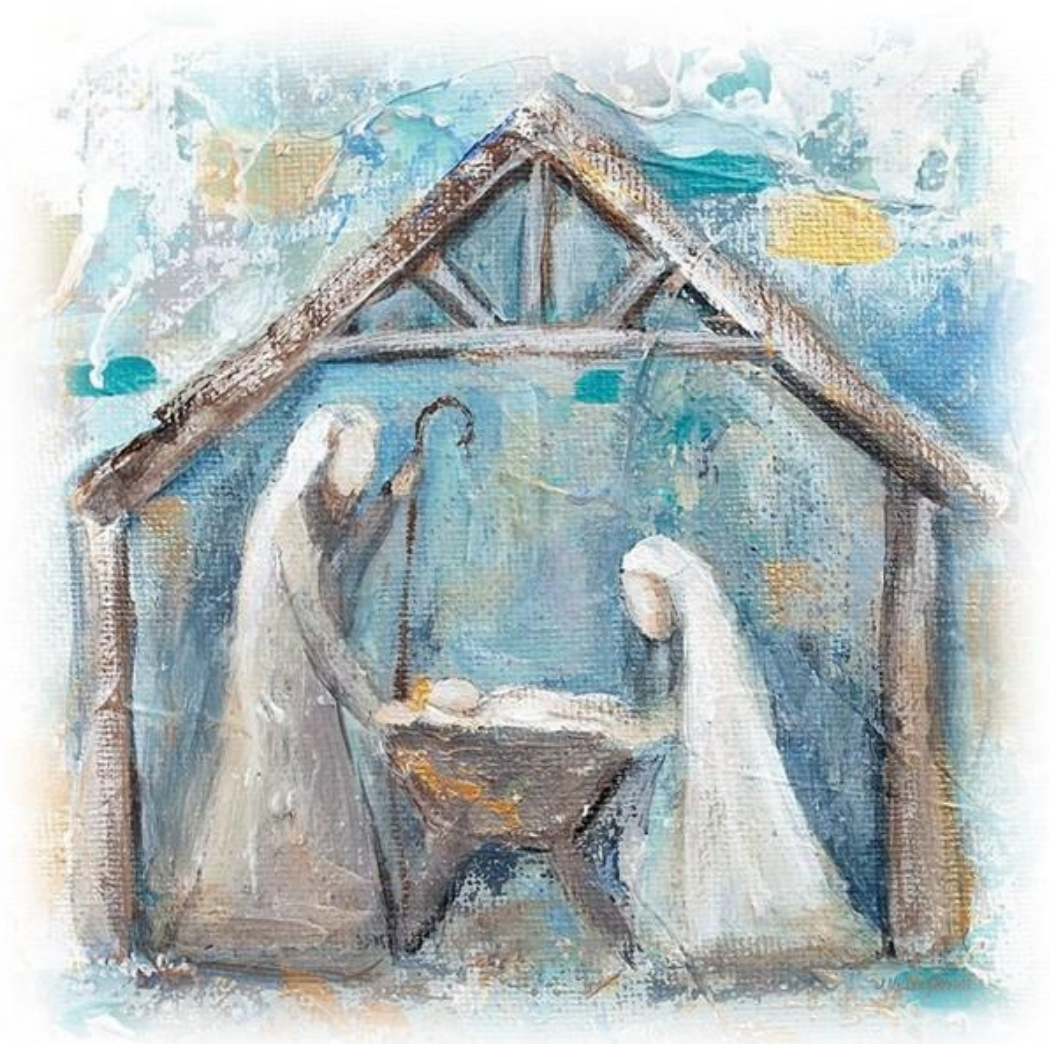




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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



22, 24 and 25 December 2024

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear AGAC friends,

Each week during Advent, we have watched our world slowly being brightened with the lighting of each candle. On this last Sunday of Advent, we are lighting the last candle on our Advent wreath that we have patiently been waiting to light, the candle of **love**. As we look at these four candles, brightly lit, we are invited to reflect on how this light takes away some of the darkness of our world as we welcome the bright **Light of the World** on Christmas.

On Christmas Day, we are lighting the Christ Candle. It symbolizes that Christ is the reason for the **hope**, the **peace**, the **joy**, and the **love** that we have. Jesus is the reason for the season. The white also symbolizes Christ's purity, showing Christ's blamelessness. Christ connects all the Advent candles. It is only through Him that we can have real **hope**, real **peace**, real **joy**, and real **love**. Christ steps down into darkness to light the world (John 8:12). Because of Him, we can be a light unto others, showing them the true meaning of Christmas.



This Sunday: The festival of 9 Lessons and Carols

At Holy Cross, we will have a service with traditional readings and carols, with congregational singing. Anne Mullen will play the organ and piano for us for the service. We will have no Eucharist. Come and enjoy!

Christmas Services: Here are our Christmas services. I will be sharing my reflection on both 24th and 25th (different sermons). On Christmas Day, Les and I will take services at both Churches. There are some activities for children available. Please feel free to invite people to these special times of worship.



Yukiko's leave

I will be on leave from 29th Dec to 2nd Jan. Les will be taking a service on 29th Dec at Holy Cross. I will be on leave again from 14th Jan to 2 Feb as I am going to Japan. During my absence, Cheen is taking a service at Holy Cross on 19th Jan and 2nd of Feb (also at St. Michael's on 2nd Feb), and Les will take a service on 26th Jan.

Finally...

Travel safe if you're heading away, and may the blessings of this Christmas be with you and your loved ones! (Remember, Christmas isn't just a day; it's an entire season!) The wildness and the warmth of God, and the Shalom of God, be yours now and always,

Ngā manaakitanga.

Yukiko

News & upcoming events



We had our 1st graduation for our Space programme.

The participants received a certificate and wore a graduation cap! It is such a blessing to see babies growing since we began the programme in May. Thank you for your support and prayers. We had a wonderful whanau. We will begin a new programme in the second term next year.



Settler's Morning Tea:

Thanks to Dot and Ria who organised it, we had a lovely morning tea last Wednesday. We will meet again Wednesday February 19th 2025.

Auckland City Mission:

Thanks to your generous donation for City Mission. I took all the items we have collected to the City Mission office on Thursday.

We pray for

- The whole world; May God's peace and joy fill all hearts those who had a lonely or difficult Christmas; may God's presence be with them

This Week's Question

Which Gospel contains the story of the birth of Jesus?

Songs for this week service (Anne)

- 1st Carol: Once in Royal David's City
2nd Carol: O little town of Bethlehem
3rd Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
4th Carol: O Come O come Emmanuel
5th Carol: It came upon a midnight clear
6th Carol: Silent Night
7th Carol: What child is this?
8th Carol: O Holy Night
9th Carol: The first noel
10th Carol: Carols Joy to the world

Readings

	<u>24th December</u>	<u>25th December</u>
1 st Reading:	Isa 9:2-7	Isa 62:6-12
Psalms	Psalms 96	Psalms 97
2 nd Reading:	Titus 2:11-14	Titus 3:4-7
Gospel:	Luke 2:1-14	Luke 2:8-20



Summary of the Scripture (24th and 25th):

- 1st
Reading: (24th) This familiar passage uttered in the 8th century BC by the first author of Isaiah foretells a divine kingship derived from the dynasty of King David and blessed by God. It ushers in the notion of a messianic kingship.
(Christmas day) In the late 6th century BC the exiled Jews are about to return to their homeland. They must prepare for the journey and declare God's saving grace to all people.
- 2nd
Reading: Titus, left by Paul in Crete to build up the church there, is ordered to encourage the Christians to live their lives according to the highest moral standards.
(Christmas day) Paul reaffirms the renewal of the Holy Spirit freely given, and of, grace given and hope of eternal life.
- Gospel: This is Luke's account of the birth of Jesus, and the angelic visitation to the shepherds telling of the birth of the Messiah.

Sentence for Christmas Day

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10–11

Collect of the Day for Christmas Day

**Son of God, Child of Mary,
born in the stable at Bethlehem,
be born again in us this day
that through us the world may know
the wonder of your love.
Hear this prayer for your name's sake.
Amen.**

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>22nd December</u>	<u>25th December</u>
Sacristan	Alison Coughlan	Yukiko
Welcomer	Ria Gormley	Trish Duncan
1 Readings	-----	TBA
2 Readings	-----	Dorothy Meyer
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	-----	Yukiko
TV Setup & Slides	InCheol Kim	Christian
Morning Tea	Alison T & Trish	-----
Flowers	Diana Harris	Yukiko

St Michaels

	<u>22nd December</u>	<u>25th December</u>
Welcome & Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce and Yukiko
Readings	Bruce Goertz	Brian Simpson
Presiding	Bruce Goertz	Les

This Week's Answer:

The Gospel of Luke (Luke 2:1-20) and the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 1:18-2:12) both contain the story of Jesus' birth.

Liturgical Colour: 22nd Purple

Christmas eve: White

Christmas Day: White

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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