



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Advent



7th December 2025

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear AGAC friends,

As we begin the second week of Advent, now is a good time to take stock of how our preparations for Christmas are going. Have you put up your Christmas tree at home? Have you bought gifts for your loved ones? What about the spiritual side of getting ready for Christmas? Quite often, we start strong, but then we fade after a few days. If that describes you, do not be discouraged; for you are not alone. We can pause and restart our Advent journey.

This Sunday, we are lighting the second candle on the Advent wreath—known as the **Bethlehem candle**, which recalls the preparations Mary and Joseph made for Jesus' birth. Their preparations were probably not unlike ours when we're looking forward to the birth of a child. They undoubtedly wanted to be sure their baby would have the necessary stuffs and a shelter for life in this world. As told in the nativity story, however, they were interrupted in so many ways. Yet, they had never lost peace in preparing for the birth of Son.

For many of us, the days leading up to Christmas are among the busiest of the year. In the midst of all, we are invited to reflect on the peace Mary and Joseph experienced during their journey to Bethlehem. As we're getting ready for Christmas, let's prepare the way for the Lord and make our hearts the new Bethlehem where Christ will be born.

Peace in Christ,

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events

AGM and new vestry members

Thank you to those who were there last Sunday. For those who were not able to attend the AGM, hard copies of the reports are available from the Church office. Please ask Roger if you want us to send them electronically.

We welcomed returning and new vestry members, as follows:

Patricia Duncan- appointed as Vicar's Warden

Dorothy Schultz- elected as People's Warden

And the elected Vestry members

Valerie Churchill, John Churchill, Gary Wells, Patrick Harris, Bruce Goertz, Jeff Zhou, Robert Heeps, Karenne West, Christian Nwarueze.



Next week will be our graduation!



Morning Tea @ Settler's

Next meeting: **10am** Wednesday **17th December** at Settler's Lounge. This will be last morning tea for the year. Beginning again 10am Wednesday 18th February 2026.



Christmas Carol Service at Fairview Rest home On 12th December 11 am.

Please join us for our friends in Fairview Rest home. If you can do that, please let Yukiko know.

Christmas gifts for ATWC

This year ATWC are doing family care packages. So have suggested for our giving, boardgames for kiddies 5-10yrs plus bags of sweet 'treats' e.g. chocs, jellybeans marshmallows etc. *There will be a basket in church on **this Sunday** for any Christmas gift donations for ATWC at Holy Cross.*

We are also collecting food items for Auckland City Mission on Sunday 7th and 15th.

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 18th December.

The annual confirmation service for the Auckland Diocese will be held 7th December at 5 pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Amanda, Angela and Bob are getting confirmed at this service. It would be great if some of us can be there for the celebration and support. If you would like to come, please let Yukiko know. We can arrange the transport to get there.

Lectionary 2026: You can download the lectionary for 2026 with the user-friendly New Zealand Anglican version click here [now!](#)

We pray for:

- The victims of the devastating floods caused by cyclonic rains that hit Indonesia and other countries in Asia
- Churches in conflict-affected regions as they serve their communities, speak for the vulnerable and hold fast to principles of dignity and impartiality.
- The end of digital violence against women and children:
Read about the '16 Days of Activism 2025' here:
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/unite/theme>
- Those who are getting confirmed, especially Bob, Angela and Amanda from our parish, this Sunday at Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Our administrator, Roger Sharp, who was admitted in Northshore hospital on Wednesday, and Dot; Betty Campbell who was in the hospital
- Our new vestry members

This Week's Bible Question

What did John the Baptist say is already laid at the root of the trees?

A: a sword

B: a fire

C: an axe

D: a hammer

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Carol our Christmas

Gospel: Mary did you know

Offertory: When a child is born

Recession: Go tell it on the mountain

Music: Andrew

Sentence for the day

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11: 10)

Readings

7th November

14th November

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm Ps 72:1-7,19-20

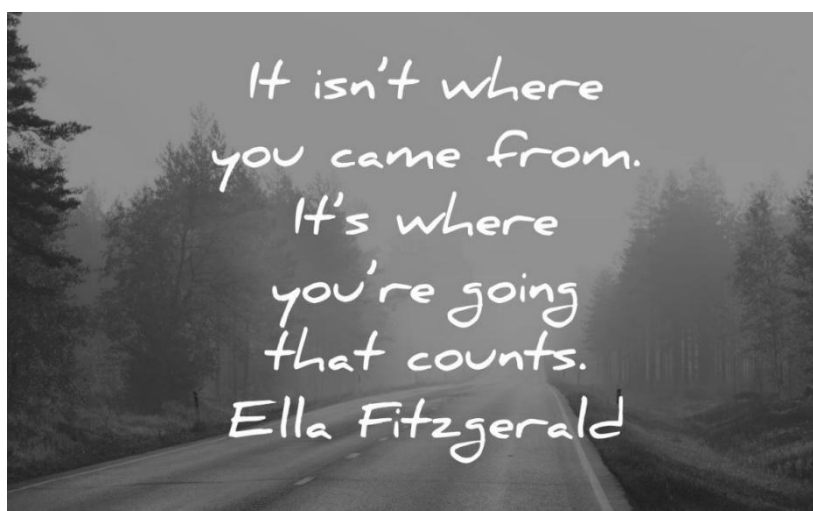
Ps 146:5-10

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-13

James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Matthew 11:2-11



Summary of the Scripture

- 1st Reading: Prophecies the coming of a new, righteous ruler from the lineage of Jesse, who will govern with the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2nd Reading: Hope is related to scripture and also to the promises made to the fathers. Fleshing out how hope relates to messianic expectations and to life in the community will be my main purpose.
- Gospel: This describes John the Baptist's ministry of preaching repentance and baptizing people in the Jordan River, preparing the way for Jesus.

Collect for the Day

Almighty God,
you sent your servant John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son;
grant that those who proclaim your word
may so guide our feet into the way of peace,
that we may stand with confidence before him
when he comes in his glorious kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer.
Amen.

Liturgical Colour

VIOLET

This Week's Bible Question Answer

C. an axe

Christmas Services at AGAC



Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>7th November</u>	<u>14th November</u>
Sacristan	Val Deas	Karenne
Welcomer	Ria Gormley	Alison Thompson
1 Readings	Trish Duncan	Diane Harris
2 Readings	Alison Thompsin	Patrick Harris
Presiding	Yukiko	Les
Prayers	Yukiko	Rhona Stace
TV Setup & Slides	Graham Wood	Gary Wells
Morning Tea	Karenne & Trish	Gary & Linda
Flowers	Ria	Diana
Music	Andrew	TBC

St Michaels

	<u>7th November</u>	<u>14th November</u>
Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Bruce Goertz	Brian Simpson
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko

Contacts

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Feedback welcome:

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

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Parish

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

www.agac.org.nz