



**Christ Church**  
YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

8 DECEMBER 2019

**READINGS**

**Isaiah 11: 1—10**

**Matthew 3: 1—12**

**A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS THIS MORNING**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Lighting the Second Advent Candle of Peace**

Gracious God

For division, disunity, discouragement and despair

**All: We turn to you to overcome**

For those who seek justice and safety

**All: We look to you to protect**

For the relentless pursuit of your peace

**All: We light this candle.**

**Amen.**



**GOSPEL READING Matthew 3: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. **Continued over**

### GOSPEL CONTINUED

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

### HONEY FUNDRAISER

End of year orders need to be made now. Special deal-Christmas Gift pack of 3 small jars for \$25 instead of \$30. All discount comes to the Church project fund.

### INDABA 2.

This year St. Matthias, and St Philip's are our Indaba partners. Our final combined event is a Carol service at St. Philip's next Sunday evening **15 December** at 7.30pm

### AUCKLAND CITY MISSION CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Mission is again running its Christmas appeal for gifts and non-perishable food. Today is the last day for your donations of Christmas gifts as these need to be processed and distributed well in time for Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has supported this appeal.



Note that our regular weekly City Mission food bank collection never stops! Deliveries of food will continue to be made to the Mission over the Christmas/Holiday Season as this is a difficult time of the year for many families in our community. So please continue to donate non-perishable items of food to this important appeal.

Thank you for your continuing support.



Contact

### General Enquiries:

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## **OUR REGULAR BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETINGS**

### **Bible Study Groups:**

- ◆ First Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm: Note that the date of the January meeting will be confirmed asap
- ◆ Alternate Saturdays at 4.00pm: This Bible Study group has gone into recess until January. The date of the next meeting will be advised in the New Year. Enquiries to Judith 021 102 9180.

**Evening Prayer Group:** Third Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm.

Next meeting date: 15 January

**Morning Prayer:** Held every Wednesday at 8 am - everyone welcome. Dates over Christmas/Holiday season will be confirmed asap

All groups meet at the church.



## **OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM  
COMBINED CAROL SERVICE AT ST PHILIP'S  
92 Saint Heliers Bay Road, St Heliers**

**SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER AT 9.30 AM  
SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**CHRISTMAS DAY AT 9.30 AM  
HOLY EUCHARIST HERE AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH**



