

Pew News **MP**

**Christ the King
10th December 2023**

Theme: Good News!

Readings

**Isaiah 40: 1-11
Mark 1: 1-8**

SENTENCE

Prepare the Way of the Lord, make His paths straight.

COLLECT

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and to prepare the way of our salvation; give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with great joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER CYCLE

In our diocese we pray for Bishop Ross and Archdeacon Jonathan Gale.

Archdeaconry of Waitemata - Parish of Blockhouse Bay- Church of the Saviour, Lorraine Lloyd,(Peter) Priest in Charge; Co-operating Parish of Lynfield- Lynfield Community Church, Bruce Richardson,(Tracy) Interim Minister in Charge; Parish of Avondale -St Jude; Parish of New Lynn-St Thomas, New Lynn- Wayne Brodeur, Priest in Charge; Mission District of Glen Eden-St Andrew, George Penk, Priest in Charge, Local Clergy- Rodger Hallen; Diocese of Nelson—Bishop Steve Mains (Watiri); In Our Wider Church- Association of Anglican Women (AAW) Mothers' Union; Clergy with Permission to Officiate-Richard Hancock, Christopher Harris (Christine), Diane Hawken, Terence Hayward (Rita).

Please keep in your prayers:

Kevin, Helga & Terry, Trewby & Rosie, Lynne & Eddie, Gus Holgate-Simpson, Amanda, Nigel, Paul Brom, Jan W, Judith and Jonathan.
Margaret Haverfield, Lindsay.

If you would like to add people or situations, and having made sure the people would like to be on our list, please phone 431 4122, or email admin@mangawhaianglican.co.nz

What's on 11th -17th December

Thur 14th Dec Rhythm'n'Riggle Christ the King 9.30am
Sun 17th Dec. Morning Prayer Christ the King 9.00am
Following this service there will be Christmas Morning Tea.

Sun 17th Dec. NO morning service at St Paul's
Sun 17th Dec. Carols at St Paul's, Kaiwaka. 7.30pm

READINGS

**Isaiah 40: 1-11
Mark 1: 1-8**

MISSION DISTRICT CONTACTS

Interim Priest in Charge: Archdeacon Jonathan Gale 021 2543791
Priest's Warden: Lindsay McCaw 022 032 6360
People's Wardens: Jo Sarah 027 2104 166

Assisting Clergy:

Rev John McClean, Rev Dr Tony Stroobant,

Christ the King Church: 9 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai Village

Postal address: PO Box 58, Mangawhai Village, 0540

Email address: admin@mangawhaianglican.co.nz

Website: www.mangawhaianglican.org.nz

Office Hours: Friday 8am – 12 Noon

Phone 431-4122 Email: Admin@mangawhaianglican.co.nz

Website: www.mangawhaianglican.org.nz

Christ the King Mangawhai, St Michael's & All Angels Hakaru, St Pauls

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING

We welcome Bronwyn who will be leading Morning Prayer today.

We hope you find God's presence in the service this morning.

☕ Please join us for a refreshment after the service. ☕

NOTICES

The next Prayer Meeting will be on Tuesday 12th December at 10.00am.

Ann Dowson has kindly put up and decorated our Christmas tree at Christ the King. If you have purchased a small gift to be placed under the tree, for less fortunate children, could you please wrap and label it indicating whether it is for a boy or girl and the age group?

Our Christmas Morning Tea which was to be held last Tuesday, will now be held after our morning service on Sunday 17th December. Please bring a small plate of food to be shared.

The Combined Churches Carol Service will be held at Christ the King this evening —10th December at 7.00pm. We hope you will all come along as it is a very enjoyable evening.

On Christmas Eve we will be holding our traditional Carol Service at St Michael's, Valley Road, Hakaru at 7.00pm. Again, everyone is welcome.

Jonathan's Word

It's a truism that we don't like being woken up when we're fast asleep. But when we're spiritually asleep, we like it even less. However, what really irks, is when the problem is that we can't see clearly and are not sure what's causing it. We only know that we are vulnerable.

The people of Judea in about 30AD were a bit like that. They were a hodgepodge of Jews, Samaritans, some descendants of Greeks from the violent days after Alexander the Great had died, and no small number of Romans there to keep the peace, the infamous *Pax Romana*, which for natives meant, *"Do exactly as we say or you'll regret it!"* They were split into a number of factions, religious and political. Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, the highly political Zealots, followers of the Herods – nicely in bed with the Romans. It was a poor and unstable little province.

And into this is born God Almighty in the form of the Messiah, God's anointed one, Jesus. In his announcement of the Good News of the Kingdom of God, some might have thought, *"O yeah. Here's another one. How long will he last, I wonder?"*

But Jesus was largely misunderstood. God's ways are not our ways. In personifying love, Jesus was very different from the expected Messiah. In love, he took our sins upon himself and was crucified. But he rose from the dead three days later and to this day holds out his arms to us in love. Jesus is both our Saviour and the Lord of the Universe. His presence is why we simply cannot lose hope. He has triumphed before and he will triumph again. We need to be ready.

Blessings
Jonathan