



Sunday 17 December 2023

FOCUS NEWS

St Martin's & St James Anglican Church

stmartinsstjames.church

Together cultivating a culture of discipleship, mission & regeneration

Kia ora everyone and welcome to St Martin's St James Church

WELCOME TO THE SEASONS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Our Vision is to:

"To Cultivate an all age culture of Discipleship, Mission and Regeneration".

Our Mission is to: Love God (Worship), Love one another (Whānau) and Love our neighbours (Mission).

Welcome if you are a regular, new or just checking in we are glad you are here. If you would like to know more about following Jesus, being baptised or would like a visit from one of our clergy/pastoral care team please see one of our staff team or welcomers.



For Christians, the Advent season anticipates Christmas, the celebration of God coming to earth to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ. Six centuries before that Bethlehem miracle, the prophet Isaiah wrote, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned" (*Isaiah 9:2, NIV*).

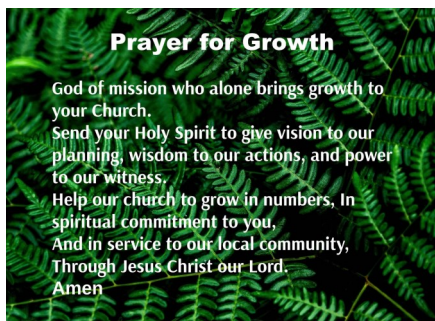
Joy is a rare commodity for many people who haven't been awakened to new life in Christ. "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. ... I have told you this so that My joy may be in you" (*John 15:9, 11; NIV*). Pray with us that this Advent, the joy of Jesus will be the evidence of his salvation transformation in the lives of thousands of people around the world.

Last Sunday we lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering

together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory as of the fathers only son, full of grace and truth'

This Sunday, Rev Sampson will be speaking on Advent Joy and the witness to the coming one the light of the world.



CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY—ADVENT: JOY

We light the first and second candles. We light the third candle of Joy
Fill us with the light of lovingkindness for all of your creation.

All: Joy, come find us.

Let us shout aloud and sing for joy at the Good News of Your love.

Joy, come find us all.

'Days of Giving for Mission' : THANKYOU :-) Over \$2000 raised for mission!

Grace and Peace. Sampson

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sentence:

The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Collect Prayer:

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

Proverbs 21:5: The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. (NIV)

COMMUNION and PRAYER

All are welcome around the table to receive Communion. If you would like prayer or ministry, people will be available at the Church during and after Communion to pray with you.

COMING UP

- **Prayer Rhythms:** Please continue to pray. Prayers can be found on <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> or the NZ Prayer book is a good resource.
- **Regular Sunday Services**
 - 8.30am Traditional Anglican Communion
 - 10.30am Family Service (2nd and 4th Sunday with HC), 10.30am Kid's Church
- **Wednesday Service:** Service starts at 10.30am in the Thompson Lounge Term time only
- **Sunday 17 December—Blue Christmas:** 7pm
- **Sunday Christmas Eve 24th** we will be having one combined Service at 9.00am followed by 4pm family service and an 11pm Christmas Eve Communion. There is **no 10.30am** service Christmas eve.
- **Sunday 24 December—Christmas Eve Party:** 4pm Kid's activities, crafts, carols and kai.

Christmas Eve Party

4pm Christmas Eve
Come join in - kid's activities,
crafts, carols and kai

Where: St MJ's Anglican Church, 50 Lincoln Road

Year of Prayer

- **Daily Devotions:** Tuesdays 9am to 9.20am. Neave Room—during term time
- **Prayer for the church and the world giving thanks:** Monday 4pm Neave Room.
- **Night prayers on Zoom:** Monday and Wednesdays 9.15pm Meeting ID: 812 0719 2691 Passcode: 856841

All Service information is available on www.stmartinsstjames.church

GIVE THANKS FOR ...

- For everyone who is involved in or taken part in our Christmas Outreach and services. \$879.60 was raised for the City Mission.

PRAY FOR ...

- Parishioners with special concerns: Avril and Alan Harper, Gwen Ragg, Jan Poulsen, Pauline Leslie, Ron Chapman, Victor and Julie Foster, Reuben Kanishiro.
- Our Mission Partners and Projects: Elaine Robson (translator)

- Prison Team members Bill Thorne and others as they minister in the Men's Prison this Sunday.

NOTICES

Columbarium bench seat is in need of some TLC. Would you like the challenge of giving this a clean down and resurfacing contact Nigel Pugh if you would like to discuss what is needed and how you can contribute. **Prayer Ministry & Prayer Requests:** Prayer requests can be left in the prayer box in the church or sent or texted to the confidential prayer chain on 029 776 1782 or stjimschurch@gmail.com. **E-life:** see the Anglican e-life at: <http://anglicanlife.org.nz/publications/e-life/>. **GROUPS & REGULAR ACTIVITIES:** **Monday: Strength and Stretch Classes:** Contact: TuneUp Physio, Village Health 338 8595 or visit www.tuneupphysio.nz. **Wednesdays: Foodbank:** is open from 9.30 to 11am. Currently need: Cereals, Sugar (500gm), Pasta, tin spaghetti. A full list is in the Crosstrax magazine. St Martin's Church Office. **Fridays during term time—Church of St Martin's Playgroup:** 9.30-12pm. Enquires to Azaria or via the facebook page.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Ministers: Rev Sampson Knight: Tel: 021 335 168 | E: revsampsennz@gmail.com

Assist: Jonathan Carson: Tel: 338 1120

Children's Worker: Azaria Peach: Tel: 020 4026 1160 | E: azaria.peach@gmail.com

Youth Pastor: Byron Behm: Tel 022 3622027 | E: beeronbeem@gmail.com

Wardens: Vicar's: Nigel Pugh: Tel: 022 311 2431 | E: nigel.pugh.np@gmail.com

People's/Pastoral: Sue Phillips: Tel: 029 776 1782 | E: alsue.1982@gmail.com

Church office: Tel: 338 4062

Hours: **Contact staff directly or email:** office@stmartinsstjames.church
50 Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Christchurch 8024

Website: stmartinsstjames.church, [facebook.com/stmartinsstjames](https://www.facebook.com/stmartinsstjames),

CHURCH SERVICES: Regular Sunday services:

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YOUNG ADULTS: contact Jamie Somerville for more details.

HARVEST RANGATAHI (YOUTH): <https://stmartinsstjames.church/youth>

Harvest Stags (Basketball) – Gym: Seniors - Wednesday 3:30pm-6pm, **Harvest Thursdays** – 7-9pm: Thursday: The Loft

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS: *Account Name:* Riccarton Spreydon Anglican Parish. *Account Number:* 02-0820-0264343-000 *Reference:* Name and AP #.

CYPSO (Children and Young Persons Safety Officer): Wendy Goodbrand **Police Vetting:** Chris Thorne (021 239 4091). **Health and Safety:** Wendy Goodbrand