



Sunday 24 & 25 December 2023
Christmas Eve
& Christmas Day
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.

Daily, in each present moment, in friend and stranger, in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of everyday life, in the church gathered for worship, in justice and peace-making actions of faithful people throughout the world. In the midst of holiday bustle and extravagance, the Advent church looks with yearning and expectation not only to Christmas but also to the ultimate fulfilment of God's purpose in Jesus.

Advent Love

The season of Advent is meant to give us that time to help us slow things down and remember. Each year, we can begin anew, remembering once again the hope that was promised to us. As we are following the readings through Advent, we hear the development of hope, peace, love and joy.

This Fourth Sunday reveals to us the message that has been revealed through Joseph: the message that Mary is to bring the promised one into the world to save us from our sins. These readings are given to us to remember what God has promised.

Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognise in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even

than death. We love,
because God loves us.

Grace and Peace. Sampson

Bible Readings:

Romans 16:25-27

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Luke 1:26-38

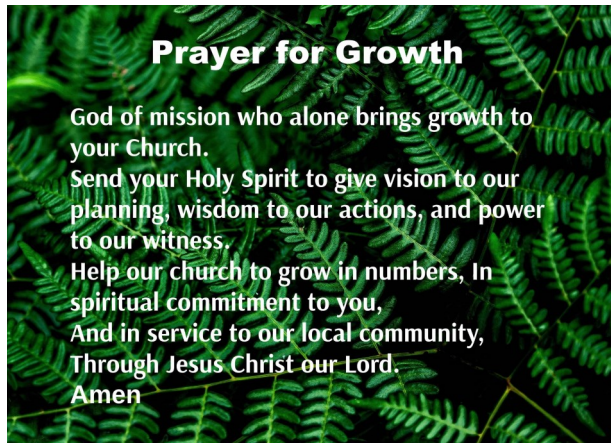
Sentence:

Here am I, the servant of
the Lord; let it be with me
according to your word
(Luke 1:38)

Collect Prayer:

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ.
Amen.

Proverbs 21:13: Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered. . (NIV)

A poster with a snowy, blue-toned background featuring pine branches and snowflakes. At the bottom, there are several red and white Christmas ornaments. The word "CHRISTMAS" is written in large, black, hand-drawn letters. Below it, the text "St Martin's St James Anglican Church" is underlined. A list of events follows:

8 Dec Playgroup Kids Christmas Party Church visit with a real donkey
10 Dec Riccarton Bush, Christmas Story, Carols, Addington Brass, Choir and Picnic
12 & 15 Dec Julie Wylie Kids Christmas Party Church visit
17 Dec Sunday 7pm Blue Christmas - A Service of Comfort & Hope
Christmas Eve 9am Sunday - Advent 4 Love
Christmas Eve 4pm Babies, Children & Families Dress up as Christmas characters
Christmas Eve 11pm Candlelight Carol Service, Communion
Christmas Day 9am Family Service, Communion
Summer Sunday Services all at 9.00am Sundays 31 Dec - 28 Jan
Shared Meals - Wednesdays Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (all 6pm)

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 January Sunday Services**
 - 9am Combined Family Service
- **Wednesday Service:** Service starts at 10.30am in the Thompson Lounge
Term time only
- **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.

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. Term time
- **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 God's infinite mercy towards each of us and to our church.

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: Kailakuri Health Clinic (Bangladesh), Aranui Wainoni Misson Parish and all our other Mission Partners and Projects.



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: revsampsonnz@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: The office is closed over the Christmas and the New Year. If it is urgent 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:

- 8.30am Traditional Anglican Communion
- 10.30am Family Service (2nd and 4th Sunday with HC), 10.30am Kid's Church

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
