



Sunday 1st December, 2024.

**St Paul's Presbyterian Church
Napier.**

We celebrate life in Christ

1st Sunday of Advent 10am

GATHERING:

Welcome and Notices:

Light 1st Advent Candle

Call to Worship:

We Sing: Come thou long expected Jesus

Prayer:

HEARING:

Reading 1: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reading 2: Luke 21:25-36

Reflection:

CELEBRATING:

Communion at the Lord's Table:

We Sing: People look east, the time is near (Vs 1,2,4)

Prayer and Distribution:

The Peace

SENDING:

We Sing: Lo, he comes with clouds descending (Vs 1,3,4)

Blessing:

Service led by Mark Johnston & Carolyn Kelly. Music by Pam Clare

Prayer Pointers this week

1. We pray for ourselves: that we may be refreshed by the real presence of Christ coming in our midst this advent.
2. We pray for our country and its peoples, in the midst of this season of tinsel and consumer frenzy, that deeper yearnings we are seeking to fill or cover over, are not forgotten, sparking more important questions and search for transcendent meanings.
3. We pray for our companion city church, Trinity Methodist and its minister, Rev 'Ofa Taukolo.

Treaty Principles Bill Submissions: Can you contribute?

The Treaty Principles Bill Select Committee is receiving submissions up until 7 January and this is an opportunity to participate in our political processes around a matter that is both deeply relevant to our identity in this country and also as Christians. Since Christians shaped the text of the Treaty to reflect Gospel values as they understood them in their day and were instrumental in getting it signed, we are descendants in two senses of this partnership agreement between Maori and the Crown. Right now, the politicians sponsoring this bill are making claims that Treaty interpretation has not served us well and a new basis of being New Zealanders together is needed to remain united as a nation. However, what this bill says and the way it is being argued for misrepresents our history and commitments leading to unnecessary racialised fear-mongering, and a sense of betrayal for Maori. While the political voice to vote down this bill suggest it will not succeed, concerns at weaponising the Treaty, increasing social division and diminishing the special identity and rights of Maori for political gain, warrant being heard. After our service today (1st December) there will be an opportunity to learn how to write your own short submission if you wish, expressing your own views respectfully. More information is available <https://www.treatyandbelonging.nz/speakup>

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES:

| | <u>Serving Today</u> | <u>Serving 8th Dec 2024</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Greeters:</u> | Anne L & Marian E | Jill McC & Margaret G |
| <u>Offering</u> | Sylvia Low | Liz Willis |
| <u>Bible</u> | Bruce Tucker | Michael Hamilton |
| <u>Music</u> | Pam Clare | Dorothy Finlayson |
| <u>Flowers</u> | Pam Clare | Alison & Bill Hancock |
| <u>Grounds</u> | Bruce Tucker | Murray & Lynne A |

Parish Lunch Group will meet at **noon** on **Friday 6th December** at **“Faith Hope Love” Café** opposite the ISite on Marine Parade. Please let Jill know if you would like to join us 027 342 1282.

Blue Sunday 8th Dec 5.00pm at St John’s Cathedral

A special service for those who do not find this Christmas season easy, missing loved ones or experiencing recent losses. All Welcome.

Swinburn House books: Thank you for your support with the Swinburn House books, there are still some gift tags for the NFC gifts available. Books and gifts need to be returned in time for our service next Sunday.

Vestry Office Use: -

We are delighted to welcome back **Miriam McGrail** from the **Manawa Ora Trust** who will be using the vestry as her office space starting tomorrow. The Trust reaches the vulnerable in our community, linking those in need to the support that is available. The work they do brings strength to Hawke’s Bay families because they know that when our whanau are strong, our communities are stronger.

Nourished for Nil:

Appreciates your support. Any non-perishable food is gratefully accepted. In particular, we are always short of breakfast cereals, rice and any type of spread. *Richard Loan, for NFN.*

Eco Corner

Bob Hughes, *Gisborne Herald*, 18 June 2024

Regarding “NZ must mine its way out – look at Norway”, June 15 column: Sir David Attenborough once said: **“We have a finite environment – the planet. Anyone who thinks that you can have infinite growth in a finite environment is either a madman or an economist.”**

In my view, economists and capitalist politicians are notably short-termist and seem incapable of imagining what we are doing to the planet

December Newsletter

The December quarterly newsletter has been sent out and should be available to you in your chosen format. There are some spare paper copies on the foyer table.

Check out <https://pray-as-you-go.org> for a 15-minute guided prayer reflection on a Scripture of the day. Downloadable as an app for your phone.

**For any giving and donations to St Paul’s Presbyterian Church:
Our Bank Account is 02 0700 00131 01 00**

Contact Information:

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