



# St. John's Anglican Church Albany Consecrated 1848.

**Sunday, 7th December 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent**



## Sentence of the Day

**'The time is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of  
God has come near;  
repent, and believe in  
the good news.'**

**Mark 1.15**

## Collect

**God of all peoples, whose  
servant John came  
baptising and calling for  
repentance:  
help us to hear his voice of  
judgement, that we may  
also rejoice in his word of  
promise, and be found  
pure and blameless in that  
glorious Day when Christ  
comes to rule the earth as  
Prince of Peace;  
who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Prayer of the Week

**Merciful God,  
who sent your messenger  
John the Baptist to  
preach repentance and  
prepare the way for our  
salvation: give us grace  
to heed his warning and  
forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with  
joy the coming of our  
Redeemer,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for  
ever. Amen**

## Today's Readings

### *1st Reading Isaiah 11.1-10*

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the  
Lord.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the  
earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the  
wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his  
waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the  
asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the  
adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the  
Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.  
<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a  
signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of  
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### *2nd Reading Romans 15.4-13*

- <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was  
written for our instruction, so that by  
steadfastness and by the encouragement of the  
scriptures we might have hope.  
<sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and  
encouragement grant you to live in harmony with  
one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ  
has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant  
of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in  
order that he might confirm the promises given to  
the patriarchs,

- <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God  
for his mercy. As it is written,  
'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name';  
<sup>10</sup> and again he says,  
'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';  
<sup>11</sup> and again,  
'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him';  
<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,  
'The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'  
<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and  
peace in believing, so that you may abound in  
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### *Gospel Reading Matthew 3.1-12*

- <sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the  
wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup> 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come  
near.'  
<sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah  
spoke when he said,  
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.''  
<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a  
leather belt around his waist, and his food was  
locusts and wild honey.  
<sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea  
were going out to him, and all the region along the  
Jordan,  
<sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river  
Jordan, confessing their sins.  
<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and  
Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,  
'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee  
from the wrath to come?  
<sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have  
Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is  
able from these stones to raise up children to  
Abraham.  
<sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the root of the  
trees; every tree therefore that does not bear  
good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.  
<sup>11</sup> 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but  
one who is more powerful than I is coming after  
me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. 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 and will gather his wheat  
into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with  
unquenchable fire.'

*The Psalm for today is Psalm 72, Verses 1-7 and 18-21*

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your judgement, O God:  
and your righteousness to the son  
of a king,  
<sup>2</sup> That he may judge your people rightly:  
and the poor of the land with  
equity.  
<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains be laden with peace  
because of his righteousness:  
and the hills also with prosperity  
for his people.  
<sup>4</sup> May he give justice to the poor among  
the people:  
and rescue the children of the  
needy,  
and crush the oppressor.  
<sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures:  
and while the moon gives light,  
throughout all generations.  
<sup>6</sup> May he come down like rain upon the  
new-mown fields:  
and as showers that water the  
earth.  
<sup>7</sup> In his time shall righteousness flourish:  
and abundance of peace, till the  
moon shall be no more.  
<sup>18</sup> Let his name live for ever:  
and endure as long as the sun.  
<sup>19</sup> Let all peoples use his name in  
blessing:  
and all nations call him blessed.  
<sup>20</sup> Blessed be the Lord God, the God of  
Israel:  
who alone does great wonders.  
<sup>21</sup> Blessed be his glorious name for ever:  
and let the whole earth be filled  
with his glory.  
Amen, Amen.

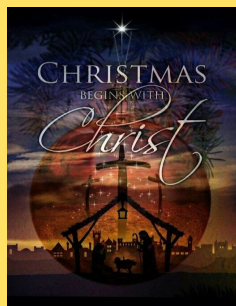
*Next Sunday's Readings*

*1st Reading Isaiah 35.1-10* *P678*  
*2nd Reading James 5.7-10* *P221*  
*Gospel Reading Matthew 11.2-11* *P10*

**HYMNS – EUCHARIST  
SETTING DUDMAN TIS 756**

	8am	9.30am
Introit		276
Gradual	270	270
Offertory	454	454
Recessional	158	158

**Children's  
Church is  
available at our  
9:30am service.  
This week's  
Children's Talk is  
'Ready for the  
Christ of  
Christmas.'**



We respectfully acknowledge  
the Menang Noongar people  
as the traditional custodians  
of the land on which we  
worship and minister, and pay  
respect to elders past and  
present.

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL  
VISITORS** - All are welcome at the Lord's  
table. Baptised, communicant members  
of all Christian denominations, are very  
welcome to receive Holy Communion and  
any person welcome to come forward to  
receive a blessing. If you are unable to  
come to the altar rail and wish to receive  
the Sacrament in your pew, please speak  
to a sides person.

Hello Dear Friends

This week we say hello to Summer and continue our Advent journey. We will have enjoyed our Albany pageant and the first of our carol singing. Our sentence for the second Sunday of Advent tells us that "The Kingdom of God is near!" We pray for help to hear the voice of judgement and that we be found pure.

Isaiah paints a picture of promise and tells of the peaceful character of Christ's kingdom and subjects. Psalm 72 is a psalm of David. He begins with a prayer for Solomon, then prophesies the glories of his reign for which he praises God.  
Paul gives us directions how to behave towards the weak and how we are to receive one another.  
Matthew talks of John the Baptist, his preaching, manner of life and baptism and his reproof of both the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

One of the images Isaiah uses to describe the messianic age is that of a lamb lying down with a wolf and having nothing to fear. It is a picture of a time of universal peace – the strong would no longer prey on the weak, or the cunning on the innocent.

Advent, with its wonderful promises of a new world, takes us on a trip to a place called hope. If things and people were perfect, hope would not be needed. Hope is required precisely because we live in an imperfect world. We invest our hopes in flawed politicians. So why not in God?

Hope doesn't mean sitting back waiting for things to happen. Hope spurs us into action. It is precisely because we have hope that we work so hard. We believe our efforts are worthwhile, and that they do make a difference. Our strength, our commitment, depends to a great extent on the degree and quality of our hope.

Vaclav Havel Václav was a Czech statesman, author, poet, playwright, and former dissident. Havel served as the last president of Czechoslovakia. He once said: "I am neither an optimist nor a pessimist. I just carry hope in my heart. Hope is not a feeling of certainty that everything ends well. Hope is just a feeling that life and work have a meaning".

Cynicism is the enemy of hope. Many refuse to accept hope into their hearts. They say: 'Things will never change. It's no good'.

Cynicism comes easy. It requires nothing from us – no trust, no effort, no love.



Hope is not the same thing as optimism though. In fact, hope and optimism are radically different. Optimism is the expectation that things will get better, whatever the situation. Hope is the trust that God will fulfil his promises in his way and in his time. The person of hope lives in the present moment, with the knowledge and trust that all of life is in God's hands.

Hope springs from faith that God will fulfil the promises he has made to us. He has given us his word in Jesus. That word is the basis on which our hope rests. And that hope is an anchor of our lives.

All great leaders were people of hope. They felt no need to know what the future would look like. They just tried to do what was right in the present and trusted that God would take care of the future. It was enough for them to know that our God is a faithful God.

But what does this mean for us today? St Paul brings it down to everyday realities. He says, 'Treat each other in the same friendly ways that Christ has treated you'. This would make a big difference. It's easy to be critical, to be over-hasty in making judgements, to be intolerant of the faults of others. If we did as Paul suggests we would make the world, or at least our corner of it, a more hopeful place.

It is the task of Christians everywhere to keep hope alive: and to set an example. However, we must not depend on results, but only on the rightness and truth of the work itself. We thank God for God's blessings in the past and ask God's help for what we must yet achieve.

When all is said and done, this world will never fulfil our deepest hopes. Only God can do that. Meanwhile, we live in a place called hope. This hope enables us to keep one foot in the world as it is: and the other in the world as it should be.

Blessings

Karen



#### **Prayers for:**

**The Diocese of Brisbane** - Archbishop - Jeremy Greaves, Bishops - Sarah Plowden (Northern Region), Cameron Venables (Western Region), John Roundhill (Southern Region), clergy and people.

**The Cathedral Parish of Bunbury** - St Boniface Cathedral and St Elizabeth's Chapel, Priest-in-Charge - Very Revd. Darryl Cotton (Dean), wife Lee-Anne, Assisting Clergy - Revd. Cn. George Harvey (Canon emeritus), Chaplains to the Prison - Coordinating Chaplain Ven. Brian Newing (Retired) and Revd. Sue Kemp.

#### **Please pray for:**

- \* St. Boniface Cathedral continues to grow as a resource for mission in the Diocese.
- \* For additional Lay Ministers to assist in leading worship.

**Diocesan Ministry:** Sustainable Living, Chair - Adrian Price.

#### **For the World:** -

- \* That the world leaders will govern with wisdom and understanding for the good of their people.

- \* Those who manage the World Bank and the distribution of wealth.
- \* For missionaries who are working in difficult regions, countries and continents around the world.

#### **Prayers for:**

**Anglican Church of Kenya - Diocese of Kapsabet.**

**St. Peter's Sigilai Parish** - Parish Priest – Revd. Abraham Kemei, wife Rodah, Curate - Revd. Agnes Mitei and husband Nicholus.

**St. John's Cheptingting Parish** - Parish Priest - Revd. Beatrice Moiben and husband Mark.

#### **Please pray for:**

- \* For those who are going through pain because of various ailments, some have been confirmed to have terminal illnesses.
- \* Revival in our homes, local churches, parishes, archdeaconries, the diocese and our country at large.

**Diocesan Ministry** - Pray for our mission to the Missionary Areas that it may be intensified and resources mobilised for these ministry.

#### **Advent 2**

*(Light the candle of peace)*

*Priest:* People of peace, God desires people who hold fast to the vision of God's Kingdom where peace and justice reign.

*All:* **Make us those peaceful people!**

*Priest:* God longs for people who have courage, who examine their own motives fearlessly, who won't abide intimidation or a bully.

*All:* **Make us those peaceful people!**

*Priest:* God yearns for people who resist the call to vengeance, the false solution of anger, the easy answer of hate.

*P:* **Make us those peaceful people!**

*Priest:* Let's pray together...

*All:* **God of peace, we hear your call to live in peace with you and with our neighbours. Bring light to our path as we await your peaceable kingdom. Amen. .**



### Mothers Union Monthly Prayer

**‘Gracious God, we gladly accept and give thanks for your invitation to venture with you through this season of Advent. As we await in anticipation the promises foretold by the prophets ‘behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son’, may we be ready at his birth, to recognise the gift of your Son and be well prepared to love and serve him. Amen.**



*We give thanks to God today for Hope25.  
Right across our country  
from the north to south,  
from the east to the west,  
Anglicans have been proclaiming  
the hope we have in Jesus.*

*People have been bold in giving invitations  
courageous in sharing their stories,  
and faithful in speaking about hope.  
Many people have heard about Jesus.  
and have taken steps towards faith.*

*We praise God for the many who have heard of our hope,  
for those who we have welcomed into our churches  
and for those who have believed in Jesus.  
We ask God to continue to bless our church  
as we live in hope.*

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

**Martha's Soup Kitchen** - Monday 12pm-1pm.

**Finance Committee Thurs., 11th Dec. at 10am.**

**Parish Council Meeting - Tues., 16th Dec. at 5.30pm in the D/W Hall** Reports due by Wed., 10th Dec. to Parish Administrator. **REMINDER this is an ALL REPORTING Month.**

### **Advent Studies**

Jane Sattler will be leading a group study on Thursday afternoons in D/W Hall from 3.15pm - 4.45 pm beginning 4th December. A sign up sheet is at the back of Church.

On line Advent reflections will follow Morning Prayer services during Advent

**Upcoming Cruise Ship Visit** - - The Norwegian Spirit (approx. passenger capacity of 2,000). - Thurs., 11th Dec. We wish all a very happy visit to Albany and safe sailing. There will be markets in St John's Hall on the day.

**Outdoor Markets** recommenced on Saturday 6th December in the gardens at St. John's, and will continue to be held each Saturday in Dec. and Jan

**Albany Pottery Group** will be using St John's Hall to set up and conduct markets on the 12th. 13th and 14th of December.

**2026 Lectionaries** are still available from the Office for \$12.50.

**Emergency Relief** - Hi everyone Thanks for your previous donations which we very much appreciated. We urgently require the following items:

- \* Egg Cartons.
- \* 1 litre full cream long life milk.
- \* 1kg plain or self-raising flour.
- \* 1kg white rice.

Thank you and best wishes from the ER team.

**Ministry opportunities** - The Church cleaning team and Op Shop are looking for extra volunteers to join them. Please contact our Op Shop Manager, Wardens or Revd. Karen.

**Church Watch** is now up and running again on Fridays from 11am-2pm. If anyone is interested in assisting with this ministry please speak to Revd. Karen.

### **PEACE OF MIND**

Regardless of age, an enduring power of attorney (EPA) , an enduring power of guardianship (EPG) and an advanced health directive (AHD) can be accessed at <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/justice/civil-law/enduring-power-of-attorney> and are recommended to be in place to provide peace of mind to our families. Do you have a will?

**AND FUNERALS** - Information to assist you make your wishes known re funeral arrangements can be accessed via the Parish Office. The completed information is for your family and/or support persons to ensure your wishes are carried out.

**Prayer Chain** - A parish prayer chain has been re-established. If you have prayer requests **please contact Revd Karen (0434 702 343)**, who will communicate with other members of the team. Prayer requests will not be discussed by prayer chain members and will be kept in confidence. If you wish for prayers to continue for more than one week, please contact Rev. Karen again. The importance and power of prayer is intrinsic in our faith. Prayer is an act of worship that glorifies God and reinforces our need for God. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV).

### **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER.**

A contemplative prayer service is held in the Lady Chapel every Tuesday of the month at 11am. The format is flexible, but follows The Rhythm of Life: Celtic Daily Prayer by David Adam and includes a time of silent prayer, up to 20 minutes for regulars. The service is chosen as a result of discussion about matters on the hearts of those attending, and the contemplation based on a mantra taken from the psalm. The service takes less than an hour usually, and it is followed for those who wish to stay, by the regular Tuesday 12.30 Eucharist. The books are supplied, and contemplative time can be modified for those new to this form of prayer. You are most welcome to come and try a new experience! Cherry O'Donnell.

**Direct Giving via Electronic Banking** - Thanks again to those who are continuing to support the church in one form or another. Could I please ask that those that are electronically transferring money to the church follow the following instructions.

**Ordinary Direct giving** - quote the word **"Donation"** in the reference section and deposit into Anglican Community Fund.

**BSB: 706-001**

**Acc: 3000 3081**

**Mission giving** should be deposited into the Parish Holding Account using the word **"Mission"** as a reference.

**Banking details are:**

**BSB: 706-001**

**Acc: 3000 8763**

## Planning for our Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2026

Our AMP will be held on **Sunday 22nd February 2026**. In order to prepare for this please find detailed the timeline of events.

Forms are now available in the Parish Office and at the back of Church for you to register as a **voting parishioner**. You will not need to register again if you did so last year. Registration will be available until end of January. (a list of those already registered is available with the registration forms).

From 9th December 2025 until 24th January 2026, **nomination forms for elections** to an office in the parish will be available. The following positions will be elected:

Parish Councillor x 6.

Please hand these completed forms to Revd. Karen.

**Voting** will take place on 15th February 2026 and 22nd February 2026 and end before the AMP.

All **Ministry reports** should be completed and send to Parish Office before 9th January 2026.

Please pray for those called to serve as Parish Councillors.

Thank you and Blessings.

Revd. Karen.



## Christmas Services at St John's 2025



<b>Sunday 21st December</b>	8am	Holy Communion Holy Communion followed by Sausage Sizzle Nine Lessons and Carols
	9.30am	
	5pm	
<b>Tuesday 23rd December</b>	12.30pm	Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 24th December</b>	5pm	Crib Service Christmas Eucharist with Carols beginning at 10.30pm
	11pm	
<b>Thursday 25th December</b>	9.00am	Christmas Day Eucharist







**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CLOSURES OVER CHRISTMAS**

Parish Office - Thurs 25th Dec-Fri., 26th Dec and Thurs. 1st Jan.  
Emergency Relief - Thurs. 25th Dec. and Thurs., 1st Jan.  
Op Shop - Mon. 22nd Dec-Fri 2nd Jan.

THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE ON LEAVE FROM THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER TO FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY. PLEASE SEND ALL PEW SHEET NOTICES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN PEW SHEETS FOR THE 14TH, 21ST, 28TH DECEMBER AND 4TH JANUARY **BY WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER**



## Christmas Bowl

Mission of The Month for December is Christmas Bowl, part of Act for Peace.

The following excerpt has been taken from the Christmas Bowl website which you can visit here [https://](https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)

[christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)

'For 76 years, Australians have given to the Christmas Bowl as an act of faith, generosity, and hope. Born in the aftermath of World War II, it began as a simple idea: churches across the country joining together at Christmas to share what they could so that others, far away, could have food, shelter, and safety.

Decades later, the Bowl still carries the prayers, gifts, and compassion of Christians across generations. It is a tradition that has quietly reshaped lives in places most of us will never see. Year after year, ordinary believers step forward in love, often unseen.

Their gifts have supported refugees, rebuilt homes after disaster, and reminded people in crisis that they are not forgotten. From Gaza to Ethiopia, from remote Pacific islands to communities recovering from natural disasters, the Christmas Bowl is more than an appeal. It is the church's legacy of love in action.

Please join us in praying and acting for peace in the world. Because everyone deserves a safe place to belong.'

### Services at St John's.

We have implemented live streaming of services on Facebook - If you use Facebook please "like" the following pages Anglican Parish of Albany and Anglican Parish Albany Service Stream for live services or recordings. We will also put a link on the website [www.anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](http://www.anglicanchurchalbany.org.au) so you can watch the recordings.

### Normal Worship times:

Sunday 8:00am	Sung Eucharist with Hymns
Sunday 9.30am	Live streamed sung Eucharist with Hymns
Sunday 7.00pm	Live Streamed Compline
Tuesday 12.30 pm	Eucharist
Monday - Friday	Morning and Evening Prayer live streamed at 8am and 5pm.

The next Order of St Luke Healing Service will be held on Thursday 11th of December at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel.

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Priest-in-Charge:** Reverend Canon Karen Cave - Mob: 0434 702 343

Email: [priest@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:priest@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

Safe Church email - [safechurch@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:safechurch@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

### **Wardens:**

Email: [wardens@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:wardens@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

Mike Taylor: Mob: 0417 967 368

John Blake: Mob: 0438 761 950, (H) 9844 4587

Georgie Walker: Mob: 0428 425 293

### **Parish Office:**

Parish Administrator: [admin@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au](mailto:admin@anglicanchurchalbany.org.au)

Rachel Matthews – 9841 5015

Parish Office Volunteer: Kate Britton.

Office Hours – Mon - Thurs 9am to 12pm and Fri 9am –5pm.

### **Op Shop:**

**Mob:** 0474 265 500

**Manager** - Ann Robinson

Trading Hrs are 10am-2pm Mon-Fri.

### **Director of Professional Standards:**

Ms Davina Goldthorpe - Ph: 9425 7203. Email:

[safeministry@perth.anglican.org](mailto:safeministry@perth.anglican.org)

### **Mandatory Reporting Service:**

Ph: 1800 708 704. Website: [www.mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au](http://www.mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au)

Please check out our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages at Anglican Parish of Albany and encourage your friends to follow us.