

# Beckenham Methodist Church

17th December 2023

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*BMC exists to be in the hands, feet and voice of God in our community, under the prompting of the Holy Spirit.*

**Ministry Team:**  
The congregation in its life & work

**Girls' Brigade:** Wednesdays at 6:00pm  
**Boys' Brigade:** Fridays at 7:00pm

The Aotearoa Advent Circle is an arrangement made of shell necklaces and paua shells with five candles, four around the circle and one in the centre. It's inspired by the traditional Advent Wreath, which was invented in Germany by a village pastor helping his flock to count down the days to Christmas. In Europe the Forest was the place of adventure, quest and danger. The evergreen branches of pine trees symbolised the faithfulness of God's love and the candles showed the light of Christ.

But we live in Aotearoa, it's summer time, everything is green, and using traditional pine branches in an Advent wreath seems a little odd. So, here is an Advent circle instead, with symbols drawn from the Ocean instead of the Forest. This is how you can interpret it.

*The circle reminds us of God. A circle has no beginning or end, neither has God. God is for ever.*

*The shells remind us of the oceans. The water goes right around our globe touching every continent. God's love is as wide as the ocean, high as the sky, deep as the deepest sea and nobody is ever left out.*

*Candles remind us that Jesus is the light. As with the traditional wreath, lighting one more candle each week heightens the sense of expectation. The candle in the middle is like a birthday candle for Baby Jesus.*

*Paua shells gleam and shine like the stars of the Anchor– the Southern Cross – ngā whetu o te Punga. The constellations guided the Māori navigators across te Moana nui a Kiwa, as the promises of God guide us through the darkness of our lives.*

Tūmanako. We light one candle on the first Sunday of Advent, and this is called the candle of Hope or sometimes the candle of prophecy.

Rangimarie. We light two candles on the second Sunday of Advent, and this is called the candle of Peace. The angels sang about peace on earth.

Harikoa. We light three candles on the third Sunday of Advent, and this is called the candle of Joy. The angels told the shepherds that Jesus birth was joyful news for everybody.

*(Thanks to Adrienne Thompson for this resource idea)*



## Season of Advent

*A time of expectant hope where together we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' birth.*

	17 December	24 December	31 December
<b>Service time</b>	10.00 am	10.00 am	10.00 am
<b>Ministering</b>	Rev Robin Humphreys	St Martins Presbyterian	St Martins Presbyterian
<b>Music</b>			
<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	Dianne Cloughton		
<b>Reader</b>	Philip Skilton		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>			
<b>PowerPoint</b>	Kelvin Aird		
<b>AV control</b>	Kelvin Aird		
<b>Flowers</b>			
<b>Morning Tea</b>			
<b>Door Hostess</b>	Gwen Morrish		
<b>Door Stewards</b>	Neville Buxton		
<b>Loopy Church</b>			
<b>Notices</b>	Aimee Bush		
<b>Ministers Steward</b>	Ros Jackson		

### Christmas and January services

#### December:

- 24.** St Martins Presbyterian at 10 am
- 24.** Family Service at BMC 5 - 7 pm
- 25.** Christmas Day - BMC at 10 am
- 31.** St Martins Presbyterian at 10am

#### January

- 7.** BMC at 10 am  
- Communion and Epiphany
- 14.** Opawa Community Church at 10am
- 21.** BMC at 10 am
- 28.** BMC at 10 am  
- Blessings of the backpacks

Christmas Eve Family Service 5 pm at BMC

We really encourage everyone who can make it – to come. We will be singing carols and having a simple Nativity play which everyone can join in on, entitled 'The ABC's of Christmas' – an interactive Christmas eve service. If you're keen, wear your angel wings, shepherds outfits or crowns! 😊 With a simple meal provided.

### Prayer list

Lynda Bush, Osker Valistark, Scott Bernard Elvidge, Elizabeth Little, Jean Morris, Graham and Dianne Cloughton, Fay Hill, Audrey Templeman, Eric and Wendy Russell, Sadie Bush

### Coming Events

Mon 18		
Tues 19		
Wed 20		
Thurs 21		
Fri 22		
Sat 23		
Sun 24	Sunday Service Family Service	10.00 am 5.00 pm

### Lectionary Readings:

Advent:

#### 24 December

- 2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, 16
- Psalms 89: 1 - 4, 19 - 26
- Romans 16: 25 - 27
- Luke 1: 26 - 38

Christmas:

#### 24 December

- Isaiah 9: 2 - 7
- Psalms 96
- Titus 2: 11 - 14
- Luke 2: 1 (15 - 20) - 14

#### 25 December Dawn

- Isaiah 62: 6 - 12
- Psalms 97
- Titus 3: 4 - 7
- Luke 2: (1 - 7), 8 - 20

#### 25 December Day

- Isaiah 52: 7 - 10
- Psalms 98
- Hebrews 1: 1 (5 - 12) - 4,
- John 1: 1 - 14

### 31 December

- Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3
- Psalms 148
- Galatians 4: 4 - 7
- Luke 2: 22 - 40

Epiphany:

#### 6 January

- Isaiah 60: 1 - 6
- Psalms 72: 1 - 7, 10 - 14
- Ephesians 3: 1 - 12
- Matthew 2: 1 - 12

#### 7 January

- Genesis 1: 1 - 5
- Psalms 29
- Acts 19: 1 - 7
- Mark 1: 4 - 11

#### 14 January

- 1 Samuel 3: 1 - 10, (11 - 20)
- Psalms 139: 1 - 6, 13 - 18
- 1 Cor 6: 12 - 20
- John 1: 43 - 51

#### 21 January

- Jonah 3: 1 - 5, 10
- Psalms 62: 5 - 12
- 1 Corinthians 7: 29 - 31
- Mark 1: 14 - 20

#### 28 January

- Deuteronomy 18: 15 - 20
- Psalms 111
- 1 Corinthians 8: 1 - 13
- Mark 1: 21 - 28

### Remembering..

2009 Joy Thomson,  
2008 Alister Aird,  
2010 Shirley Purves,  
2010 Stan Thomson,  
2011 Norma Coulson