

Newsletter

11th December

2022

epsom
baptist church

Leading: **Jacqui Caetano**
Preaching: **Grant Illingworth**
Theme: **The Joy of the Lord is my Strength**
Scripture Readings: Neh 8:1-12; Phil 4:4-13

**Sunday
Worship
9.30 am**

The next **Deacons' Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, 17th January 2023, at 7.30 pm.

From Pastor Jacqui

Decorating a Christmas tree brings much joy to my heart. The satisfaction I get when it's all done and the lights light up is quite surreal. It takes a lot to get to this point though. Choosing a tree when you have a limited budget can be a challenge, carrying it into the house is an even bigger challenge because I am so allergic to the pine needles, and making sure the lights work before they go onto the tree adds to the frustration too.

They worked when I packed them away last year, why then do they not work this year! The frustration can be daunting to find the one bulb in the net that is blown which has blown the whole circuit!

Verses like Psalm 30 ... "weeping may stay for **the** night, but rejoicing **comes in the morning**" and Nehemiah 8:10 "Do not grieve, for **the joy of the Lord is your strength**" talks of a time of disorientation, however, these verses are encouraging because they help us realise the hope that things will get better, that a time of grieving does come to an end, joy does return and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

At this time of the year, we can be Jesus' love to those around us, we can bring joy to the heart by singing Christmas carols together. Hope is found in Christ alone and this is good news worth spreading! Let your light shine before others this Christmas season, so they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). There are people without hope, joy, or peace all around us. It may just take asking someone genuinely how they are to reveal disorientation for them to find hope, joy and peace or even Christ in the midst of their turmoil.

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Chinese Congregation: Pastor Daniel Choi

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Check out **Epsom Baptist Church New Zealand** on Facebook

Regular Notices for this week

Quarterly Member's meeting THIS Wednesday at 7.30 pm

Prayer for our Church and Services 9.00 am Sunday in Pastor Daniel's office

Prayer Walk on Wednesdays between 8.30 -10 am. Meet at the church.

Final **ESOL Bible Study** this Wednesday 11.30 am - 1 pm with a shared lunch.

Youth After School Social on Thursdays, come after school and stay until 5 pm. We'll be making Christmas cookies.

Seasonal notices

Carols by Candlelight Saturday 17th 7.30 pm, starting at the church and then into our street. This should be lots of fun!

Combined Christmas Day service at 10 am. **Followed by a BBQ** "There is space for one more at the table" - Come along, bring 'n dish to share, and the table is open to invite friends (This is by invitation only and not to the general public)

Contribute towards the Auckland City Mission's Christmas Hampers. Bring along tinned foods (with a ring tab for opening), sealed treats and toiletries each Sunday during advent. The 18th will be our final day for collection.

Our working Bee was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



December 2022 Sunday morning roster

Flowers: Donglan Zhang

Morning tea: Murray and Neroli Hollis

Communion preparation: Murray and Neroli

Door and Offering: Ivy, Milika and Natalie and Joe

Scripture reading & Communion: Lawrence

Offering counting: Linda McBurney and Lawrence Zhang