

September 2026

OCC NEWSLETTER

Minister's Message

The Story We Live By

The Odyssey by Christopher Nolan is now playing in IMAX and other cinemas worldwide. Originally written by the Greek poet Homer, this ancient Greek epic poem has been adapted into movies, shorts, and TV miniseries many times. I haven't watched the film yet, but I watched interviews with Nolan about making The Odyssey on various media.



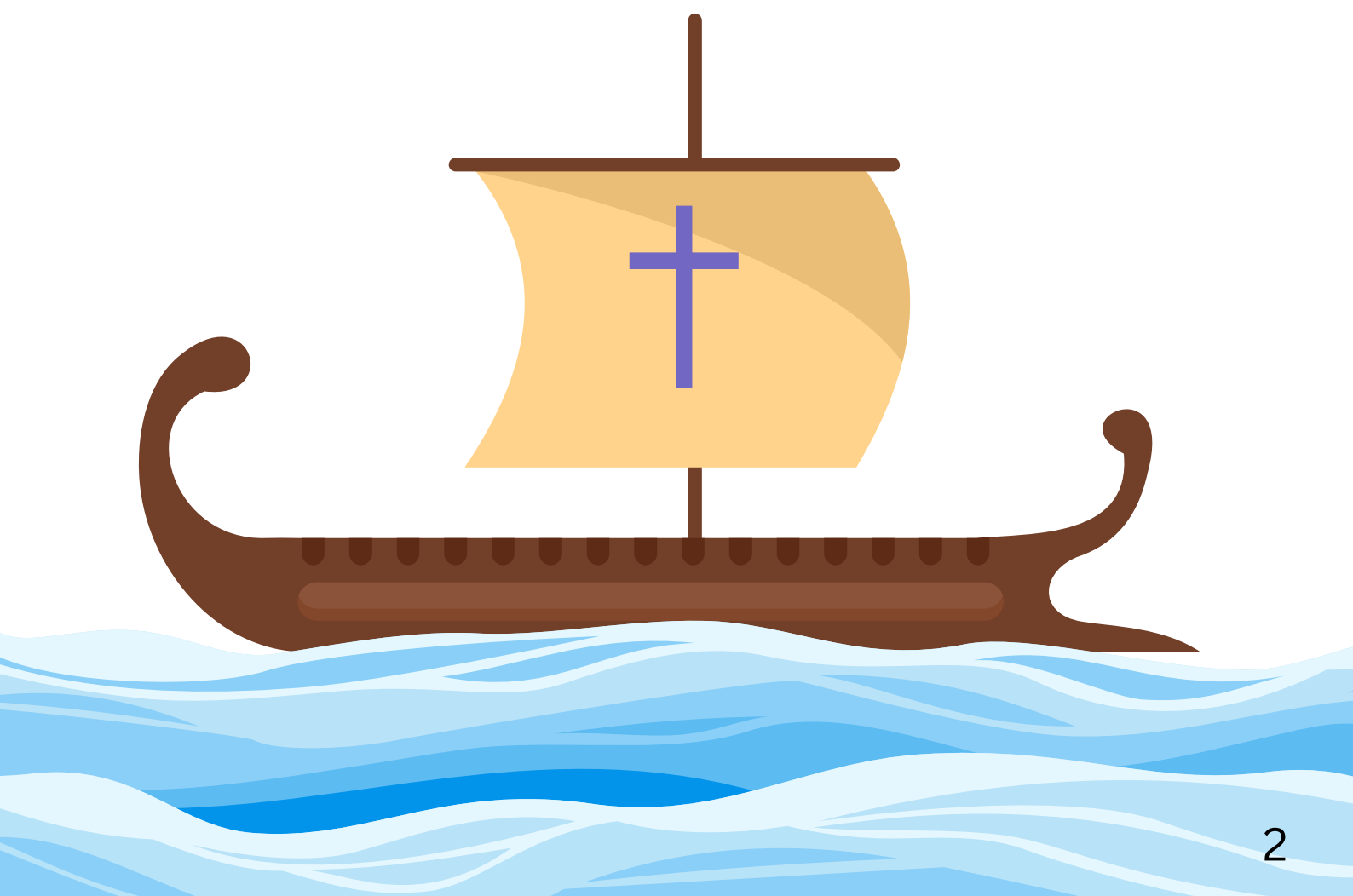
One notable thing to me is the worldview he tried to depict, thereby helping the audience experience the world that Odysseus lived in. To achieve this goal, Nolan captures everything he can 'in-camera' using physical models, real locations, and full-scale props. As such, it is not only the audience, but the actors and the entire film crew had to be in 'that world view' which Odysseus lived in. The physical challenges and difficulties of filming every scene became their daily life. The actors didn't just act on a blank blue screen, but interacted with tangible, full-scale sets.

These extraordinary efforts may make the film great. The worldview that Odysseus had is the full spectrum of the human experience, including love, revenge, suffering, and desire—and eventual death. Yet, any worldview is an idea, and a worldview can't save us, but Christ can.

We Christians have a different worldview in that God, Creation, the Fall, Redemption and Consummation. God is renewing the creation through Christ. We often forget about who we are, partly because we live in a world that has Odysseus' worldview. We may measure our happiness, life, success, and relationships accordingly. Yet Christians are called to live every part of life under the lordship of Christ, as if the actors had to live in a real world of Odysseus.

The worldview that actors inhabited for many months, however, didn't last when they went back to their homes, as it was a temporary one. In our case, the reality in which we are called to live is not temporary, but until the end—the eternal homecoming to a perfected cosmos, where humans live in the unbroken presence of God forever, as in the Book of Revelation. Odysseus is trying to find his way home. Scripture tells us that God comes to bring us home. It invites us to see the world not as meaningless or abandoned, but as God's creation, broken by sin and being redeemed by grace. And in the centre of that story is not an idea, but a person—Jesus Christ, to whom we confess the Lord.

Rev Jin Sook Kim



So much happening in September!

Lots going on at Onewa Christian Community during September starting with Eco Kids this Sunday, Community Breakfast on 20th, our annual High Tea fundraiser on Saturday 26th, Onewa Kids on the second, third and fourth Sundays and of course our weekly Sunday service. Onewa Youth is on Fridays from 5.30pm during term time; our Ukulele group meets Thursday evenings; mainly music is on Tuesday mornings and Thursday is our Friendship Group. Sunday evenings we meet for Bible Study. Phew!

Eco Kids this Sunday is all about Junior Eco-Engineers. We'll be making an anemometer and using recycled materials to create an egg protection system. Free to attend and all welcome but please register.

Sunday 13th our new weekly kids programme starts. Onewa Kids will be exploring Ezekiel 47:1-12 and creating a living river model to represent the word of God flowing out into the world.

On Sunday 20th, we have Audrey Tolua from Auckland Emergency Management coming to speak on the topic of "Stronger Together: Simple Ways to Prepare for Emergencies".

Saturday 26th, we have our annual Floral High Tea fundraiser. Tickets are \$30 and include high tea, floral displays, a piano recital and entertainment. The theme this year is Enchanted Forest. Ticket details are in the poster.

Onewa Youth is on Fridays during term time from 5.30pm. We welcome young people aged 13-18 to join our group.

Everyone is welcome to our Sunday service which starts at 9.30am but feel free to come earlier and stay afterwards to enjoy a coffee and meet others. We're an open, inclusive Christian community – welcoming everyone, growing in faith together and putting the love of Jesus into everyday action. Feel free to come along and see if we're the right fit for you and your faith.

Find out more by visiting our website at www.onewacc.org.nz or emailing communityengagement@onewacc.org.nz or just come along. We'd love to see you!



Enchanted Forest

Floral High Tea

Saturday 26 September, 2-4pm
97 Onewa Road, Northcote

High Tea, Floral Displays and Music.

Tickets \$30 pp. Available via sarah@onewacc.org.nz,
021 0919 7097 or during office hours.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!



**Onewa
Christian
Community**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

A reminder of some of the wonderful food, flowers, tables and outfits from last year's Alice Floral High Tea.





Eco-Kids



Junior Eco-Engineers

Sunday 6th September

Meet 9.30am @OCC,
172 Hinemoa Street



**ECO-FUN FOR PRIMARY
SCHOOL AGED KIDS!**

Register by emailing sarah@onewacc.org.nz.
Caregivers must attend.

www.onewacc.org.nz



From John Railton:

Pacific Vision Aotearoa (PVA)

Some South Auckland churches started to grow food in 2019. Since then other churches have joined and their banner now is “Grow to Share’. They have planted gardens around their carparks utilizing vertical gardens. On a recent tour to the edible gardens located in the Auckland Botanic garden they learnt that begonias that serve as beautification in many of their homes and churches are edible. The ‘Grow to Share’ model is evolving to build resilience and uplift mana of locally grown kai. They are reminded of their ancestral knowledge connected with the ways of growing kūmara passed down through generations and across oceans describing it as AI-Ancestral Intelligence. Refer to the link below as 2 videos are included on how they started gardening.

<https://www.pva.org.nz/blog/grow-2-share-wnanga>



Eco Mosque

The speaker at the July Community Breakfast was Zain Ali and his talk was titled “the Muslim next door’. During the question time he mentioned the eco mosque in Cambridge UK. Here is a photo of it. Amazing



FREE

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

START YOUR SUNDAY
WITH US.



SPEAKER

Audrey Tolua

*Stronger Together: Simple
Ways to Prepare for
Emergencies*

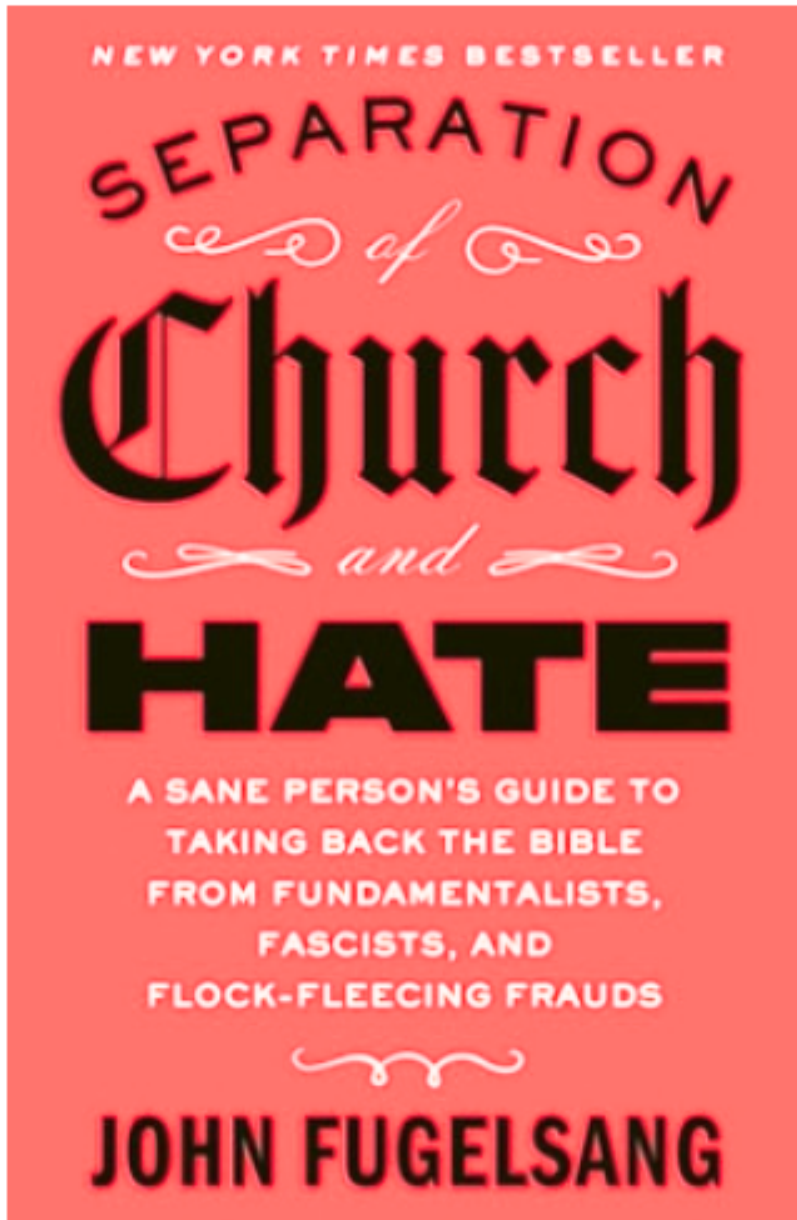


Book Review

Dale Kerr has kindly written a book review about a book that she has just read and very much enjoyed. If you've read a book that you think our members would enjoy, please feel free to get in touch with Sarah about writing a review for it.

The Separation of Church and Hate – a Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds.

By John Fugelsang



With a title like that it gets your attention, and your attention is warranted. This is written by a New York comedian - one of his punchlines (in some of his Youtubes) being that he is the product of a Brother-Sister relationship....his father was a priest and his mother was a nun.

We discuss why church congregations are shrinking, and I feel it is often because most of us find it difficult to see the hate and lack of thought shown by some fundamentalists who grab the headlines. John Fugelsang is addressing this.

His book covers different topics in each chapter, including attitudes to feminists, abortion, gun control, and other religions. He suggests an argument from the far right, with possible biblical references they may use in their defense.

He then discusses the background to these verse(s), and what possible argument(s) you could make or a suggested stand to take.

He is American, and this occasionally shows eg in gun law discussion, but overall I found the topics pertinent and his arguments usually common sense. I felt he was stating what we have all thought, but presenting it in a cohesive manner.

The book is in the Auckland Library (possibly with a long queue). I have bought 2 copies which I am happy to lend, but they are paper back and have smaller print than the library copy. And the online bookshop I used has offered me and one customer free delivery (about \$6).

Let's build our faith
one verse at a time! ♥

BIBLE

TALK PLUS

Discover
God's Word
together!

More than a talk.
It's a life transformed. ♥

Ask.
Share.
Grow!



STUDY
the Bible
together



SHARE
thoughts
and learn
from each other



ENCOURAGE
one another
and grow
in faith



LIVE
God's Word
every day



WE MEET UP
1ST, 2ND & 3RD SUNDAYS
DURING TERM TIME
AT 5.30PM – 7.00PM

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

📍 172 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead

**Onewa
Christian
Community**
NEW ZEALAND'S LARGEST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

— "Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another." —
— Proverbs 27:17 —

Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation, which runs from 1 September to 4 October, is an annual celebration of prayer and action for creation that Christians on six continents have commemorated for years. The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Every year, the Season of Creation ecumenical steering committee comes up with a theme to help churches around the world strengthen our united response during this shared season of reflection and action. This year's theme is Living Water.

“Swams of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” (Ezek 47:9,12)



This year's theme, "Living Water", explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

The symbol depicts water flowing from the Temple of God - at first a tiny stream that grows deeper, and deeper and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to degraded or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

Find out more about the Season of Creation and how you can take action here by heading to <https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/season-of-creation>



WEEKLY, TERM-TIME

ONEWA KIDS



KIDS CHURCH FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED KIDS

SUNDAYS
AT 9:30



ONEWA CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY
172 HINEMOA STREET



A **SAFE** SPACE FOR KIDS TO
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GOD,
ASK **BIG** QUESTIONS,
AND CONNECT WITH THE
LOVE AND **LIFE** OF **JESUS**.



AT ONEWA KIDS WE...



HAVE FUN



PLAY GAMES



MAKE MUSIC



LAUGH



BAKE



SERVE



EAT



TALK LOTS



REFLECT



CREATE ART



PLAY GAMES



AND JUST ENJOY
BEING TOGETHER!



WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!



Appreciation

The gardens outside our church at 172 Hinemoa bring so much joy to our community. As I sit in the office, I hear walkers going past commenting on the beauty. People stop to sit on the bench and talk about the garden. Last week, I heard a small boy going past on his scooter yelling “Flowers!”. Thank you to the Westras for all you do to keep the garden looking beautiful!



September Roster

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Prayer	Reading	Morning Tea
Sunday 6 Sept	Jocelyn Collinge	Nan Inkson	Nan Inkson	Rosemary Bold	Lynn & Robin Baxter
Sunday 13 Sept	Robin Baxter	Yan Pan	Yan Pan	Robin Baxter	Pauline F & Rachel Hurr
Sunday 20 Sept	Community Breakfast				
Sunday 27 Sept (Communion)	Mary Boyd	Garry Pash	Garry Pash	Mary Boyd	Jocelyn Collinge & Sue Jung
Serving elders for Communion 27 th September: Jocelyn Collinge, Nan Inkson, Rachel Hurr and Robin Baxter					

Contact us

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Community Engagement Lead: Sarah Thorne sarah@onewacc.org.nz

Ph 021 0919 7097

Admin: Pauline Soo admin@onewacc.org.nz

Giving

BNZ account

Account name: ONEWA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Account number: 02-0112-0168422-000

BIBLE TALK SUPPERS

Meet on Every 4th Sunday
5pm at church