

St Andrew's on The Terrace

Hato Anaru o Te Parehua
Founded 1840



ORDER OF SERVICE

24th December 2013

Christmas Eve



*Heaven touches earth
Sweet communion of a kiss...*

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold italics**. We will sing the carols without announcement. Stand if you are able, but feel free to remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.*

**During the service an offering will be gathered for
the Christian World Service Christmas Gift Appeal.**

ORGAN PRELUDE

Charles Sullivan

INTROIT:

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

St. Andrew's Singers

Words and Music © Colin Gibson COC 22

GATHERING

In this southern place
pohutukawa stands all year
green and murmuring
wind whipped
clinging to rocky shore lines.

Barbara Sampson (adapted)

But when pohutukawa breaks
glorious red
against a clear blue sky
to the roar of rolling surf
we know that Christmas has come.

Pohutukawa Christ,
you stand in our midst all year
singing your ever-green song of love.
But at Christmas you break out
blood-red, flesh soft
to the sound of a baby breathing.
Gift beyond description we welcome you!

Let us celebrate life in the presence we name God.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

Words © Edmund H. Sears; Music (arr) © Arthur Seymour Sullivan

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
With news of joy foretold,
"Peace on the earth, good will to all
From heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
Love's banner all unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
Over all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
Old echoes plaintive ring,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years
Shall the time foretold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

WELCOME

SOLO

O Holy Night

Jane Keller

Words: © Placide Cappeau: Music: © Adolphe Charles Adams

PRAYER

CAROL

Words adapted by © George Stuart: Music© William James Kirkpatrick
WOV 242 Cradle Song

Away in a manger, no pillow or a bed,
the baby boy Jesus is born in a shed;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the baby boy Jesus asleep on the hay.

While cattle are standing, the baby's asleep
Sought after by shepherds who leave all their sheep;
And wise men bring treasures; they've come from afar
To give gifts to Jesus; they followed a star.

Yes, Jesus is near me, I know he will stay
Close by me for ever and love me each day;
He blesses all children; we know we will share
A wonderful friendship in his tender care.

Children come to the front

STORYTIME FOR THE CHILDREN

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We have waited with hope
for God to bring justice and righteousness.

We have waited with peace
for God's shalom to be felt.

We have waited with joy,
celebrating the things God has already done.

We have waited with love,
awed by how God's love has been shown to us.

Tonight we light this candle
to celebrate the light of God, coming into the world
in the birth of Jesus.

*O God of hope and peace, joy and love
From that stable so long ago
your light shines out
into every corner of the world.
Help us to sing with angels
of the joy of your coming.
Help us to live by your light not only today,
but throughout the whole year,
so that tidings of peace and goodwill to all
will truly transform everything.*

CAROL

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: G F Handel
Antioch WOV 224

Joy to the world! The Promised One
has come shalom to bring.
Let ev'ry heart prepare a room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

Graceful and true, the Saviour rules,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of the way of peace,
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders, wonders of God's love.

PASSING THE PEACE

The Holy Child of peace has come to dwell among us!
Let us share the peace with one another.
Christ has come among us!
The peace of Christ and the joy of Christmas be always with you.
And also with you.

WORD IN TEXTS

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Douglas Wood

Unto us a child is born....

Gospel

Luke 2: 1-7

Kath Kerr

The Birth

Luke 2: 8-14

Heather Macfarlane

The Angels

Luke 2: 15-20

Joan Tyler

The Shepherds

Contemporary Reading:

Bethlehem Now

Anna Smith

by Ron O'Grady

ST ANDREW'S SINGERS

Carol of Dreams

Words © Shirley Murray; Music © Vivien Chiu AA12

REFLECTION

Jim Cunningham

It's your turn to carry the baby.....!

CAROL

Words© Shona Murray; Music © Mark Wilson COC 52

You are born in us again.
Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,
to melt away the icicles of vanity and pride;
you come to blow the very doors of loving open wide.
Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,
like the warmth of the summer wind you come.

You are born in us again.
Like the scent of the summer rain you come.
You come to quench the thirsty and to freshen up the land;
you come to clean away the dust that's settled in our hand.
Like the scent of the summer rain you come,
like the scent of the summer rain you come.

You are born in us again.
Like the light of the summer sun you come,
to give light to the places that have never seen the Son:
you come now to embrace us, you're the holy, holy one.
Like the light of the summer sun you come,
like the light of the summer sun you come.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lynne Dovey

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom come on earth!
With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.*

SOLO:

Star-Child

Thomas Gray

Words © Shirley Murray; Music © Colin Gibson

OFFERING FOR CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION

St Andrew's is an open community and all are invited to Christ's table. Wherever you are on your faith's journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to, whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome to share in the communion. This is God's meal for all people.

COMMUNION HYMN Words© Shirley Erena Murray. Music© Roy Tankersley COC 14

1. Come now, Lord Jesus,
enter our Christmas,
be to us no stranger
in this new made manger.
2. Come, small and human,
born of a woman,
yet a child much greater,
of our own Creator.
3. Come, cold and crying
comfort denying,
no place to receive you,
few yet to believe you.
4. Come, poor and simple,
our flesh your temple
in your body feeling
hurt as well as healing.
5. Come, gift and token,
bread to be broken —
star and sign still point you,
myrrh will anoint you.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Michael Morwood (adapted)

On this special night of nights
once again we celebrate a Creative Mystery we name God.
A serendipitous creativity beyond our words
and beyond our images.

A creativity which undergirds our human existence
in all its complexity and all its diversity.

All our collected human wisdom is a
visible expression of this Creative Mystery,
active in all places, at all times,
in individuals and cultures,
seeking expression in the creation of a just and peaceful world.

As Christians we rejoice in the birth of Jesus
in whom we see the fullness of human possibility:
to make God visible in our lives.

In Jesus we have seen this Mystery
come to expression in human form.
Like us he grew in wisdom.
Questioning.
Searching for meaning.
Shaping convictions.
Enacting justice.
Experiencing love
and coming to know love's connectedness with God.

Jesus stood firmly in his own religious tradition
and preached good news to all people
dreaming of a better world.

We rejoice that Jesus led people
to discover the sacred in the ordinary:

***in the crowd,
in the rejected ones,
in everyday life,
in human yearnings to be better people,
and in being neighbour to one another.***

And so we recall the ancient story.
At the end of a journey, among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks,
broke it and shared the bread with his friends,
asking them to gather in memory of him,
and to live in a covenant of love,
with their God.

***Let us share this bread and be strengthened,
loving as Jesus loved and
bringing peace and justice to the world.***

We take this wine,
mindful of our responsibility
to be bearers of forgiveness, tolerance and understanding.

We drink committing ourselves to allow the Spirit of generosity that took flesh and moved so boldly in Jesus to move in our lives.

To this commitment we give our 'Amen' and offer it as our Christmas gift to our family, friends and neighbours and to all the earth.

God of life, with this bread and this wine, we celebrate the birth and life of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to follow his way.

Bless us and these gifts, so that we may take light and hope, love and peace, into the world, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION IS SHARED

Communion is served by intinction. Come to the front of the church and receive the bread (or gluten-free cracker), taking a piece large enough to dip into the wine (**large** silver chalice) or grape juice (**small** silver chalice).

Eat the bread dipped in wine/juice.

You will be given a carol candle as you return to your seat.

We share in:

the bread of life.

the cup of blessing.

the light of the world.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Fiona McDougal, Flute
Mike Wespel-Rose, Guitar

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in the dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

To the weary comes refreshment,
To the grieving, strength and peace;
To the anxious, sweet contentment,
To the captive soul, release.

*Come and worship
Christ, the newborn King
Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn king,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to live as one with earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hail the heaven-born prince of
peace!
Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king.*

Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas;
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ child,
warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.

Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,
made in the moment a woman gives birth;
hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
everywhere, anywhere here on the earth.

THE CALL TO SERVICE *(standing)*

Go as far as your courage takes you,
for we cannot go beyond the reach of God.
Give as extravagantly as you may,
for we cannot spend all the riches of God.
Care as lavishly as you are able,
for we cannot exhaust the love of God.
Keep journeying and searching,
for God will always travel with us.

BLESSING

And now may the blessings of life be upon us.
May the memories we gather here give us hope for the future.
May the love that we share
bring strength and joy to our hearts,
as we live into the just reign of God,
and the peace of Christ be with us
until we meet again.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

Words & Melody: (poss) John Francis Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angels:
*O come let us adore him, o come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God, glory in the highest'
*O come let us adore him, o come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*O come let us adore him, o come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the service this evening and to Charles Sullivan (organ), Vivien Chiu (piano), Jane Keller, Thomas Gray Fiona McDougal (flute), Mike Wespel-Rose (guitar), and the St Andrew's Singers for the music.

Christmas Day Celebration Worship

St Andrew's on The Terrace

9:30 a.m. tomorrow

Everyone Welcome.

The Church office will re-open on 6th January.

Urgent pastoral care – Jim 9734342 (home), 027-680-1159 (Mobile)

Roster sign-up sheet for Christmas Day and Sundays until Waitangi Day are at the back of the church. Please sign up if you can help.



St Andrew's on The Terrace

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To create a lively, open Christian faith community,
to act for a just and peaceful world, and to be catalysts for discovery,
compassion and celebration in the capital.