

St Andrew's on The Terrace

Hato Anaru o Te Parehua

Founded 1840

ORDER OF SERVICE

25th December 2013



Christmas Day

“The love song at the heart of everything”



Nativity from above

<http://www.seedresources.com/view/images/nativity-from-above>

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

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 here.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in ***bold italics***.

Please stand if you are able, for the hymns and the offering prayer.

We will sing the hymns without announcement.

Please note your nearest fire exit.

The church and hall have been earthquake strengthened.

In an earthquake: drop, cover and hold.

During the building of the Welcome Centre, the only toilets available
are upstairs in the Conference Centre.

Access is via the external stairway at the back of the car park.

We apologise for lack of disability access until February 2013.

GATHERING

Sung by Fiona, Madeline, Tony and Vivien

CAROL The Aye Carol

Words and music John Bell

Who is the baby an hour or two old
Looked for by shepherds far strayed from their fold,
Here in our world and more precious than gold?
This is God with us in Jesus.

Who is the woman with child at her breast,
Giving her milk to earth's heavenly guest,
Telling her mind to be calm and at rest?
Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Who is the man who looks on at the door,
Welcoming strangers, some rich but most poor,
Scanning the world as if somehow unsure?
Joseph, the father of Jesus.

Who are the people come in from the street,
Some to bring presents and some just to meet,
Joining their song to what angels repeat?
These are the new friends of Jesus.

Will you come with us, although you feel shy,
Come to his cradle and come to his cry,
Give him your nod or your 'yes' or your 'aye',
Give what you can give to Jesus?

PRAYER

It is when we are still
that we know.
It is when we listen
that we hear.
It is when we remember
that we see your light, O God.

Silence

From your Stillness
we come.
With your Sound
all life quivers with being.
From You
the light of this moment shines.

John Phillip Newell

CAROL *(please remain seated)* **Peace Child**

Words: Shirley Murray Tune: Kingsland Colin Gibson No 35 Carol our Christmas

Peace Child,
in the sleep of the night,
in the dark before light
you come,
in the silence of stars,
in the violence of wars—
Saviour, your name.

Peace Child,
to the road and the storm,
to the gun and the bomb
you come,
through the hate and the hurt,
through the hunger and dirt—
bearing a dream.

Peace Child,
to our dark and our sleep,
to the conflict we reap,
now come—
be your dream born alive,
held in hope, wrapped in love:
God's true shalom.

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW ROOM CANDLE

STORY FOR THE CHILDREN *"The video shop sparrow"*

by Joy Cowley

We exchange Christmas greetings with each other.

Prayer

At this time of the year we are aware of the paradoxes in our lives.
All around people are celebrating and we celebrate along with them.
But we know also that our experience is not as perfect
As the ideal we see on Christmas cards or on TV.
We are happy and excited but
Some of us are also lonely and sad too,
Missing those no longer present,
far from home,
Sick, anxious or confused,
Or living lives that have brought
disappointment and doubt.
We bring these realities with us today,
for the Christmas story too holds conflicting experiences.
In the joy of the angels and the fear of the shepherds,
the doubt of Joseph and the fierce courage of Mary,
the persistence of the wise men and the vulnerability of the new baby,
we see our own experience reflected back to us and
feel a glimmer of hope.....

As God holds this small bird, in all its vulnerability,
So God holds each one of us and the world in loving care.
Rest in the hand of God for healing
And soon there will be freedom to fly.

Thanks be to God

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Partner Story

In driest Uganda, HIV and AIDS have left children without parents. Those left caring for the orphans and other vulnerable children face a grim future, toiling long hours to collect water and feed their families. Working with these "new" families, the **Centre for Community Solidarity** has turned their worlds upside down. They bring the locals together and in a week they build a rainwater tank for those who need it most. When it rains they have water to drink, for washing and to grow gardens. The transformation is complete - the disease and hunger gone. The pride can be seen in their faces.

Lighting the Christ-mas Candle

Leader: Creator God, with people everywhere we have cried out for the grace and refreshment of your Hope, your Peace, your Joy, your Love

People: *In this child, you answer our prayers, for Jesus is Living Water, poured out in love to satisfy the thirst of the world*

All: *We give thanks for Light and Life. Amen*

CAROL Always there's a carol

Music: Colin Gibson. Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Hope is our song 6

Always there's a carol
waiting for a voice,
always there's a candle
waiting for a flame,
always there's an angel
telling us "Rejoice!"
*So, sing the carol
light the candle
join the angel praise;
Christmas is the day of all days!*

Always when we seek it,
shines the Christmas star,
always God is present
could we only see,
always God enfolds us,
holds us where we are,
So, sing the carol....

Always out of darkness,
countering the strife,
always comes the Christ child
leading us to peace:
always there's a baby
crying for a life,
So, sing the carol....

WORD IN TEXTS

Sandra Kirby

Hebrew Bible

Psalm 144 version by Nan Merrill

Gospel

John 1: 1-5, 10-14

Contemporary reading

"The love of God" by JB Phillips

RESPONSE

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
We give thanks.

CAROL Three faiths carol

Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: Vivien Chiu

Now the star of Christmas
shines into our day,
points a new direction
change is on the way-
there's another landscape
to be travelled through,
there's a new born spirit
broadening our view.

When the Christ of Christmas
speaks to heart and mind,
clears the clouded vision
hurting humankind,
kindred spirits gather,
drawn toward the light,
sharing revelation,
joyful at the sight.

*If we choose to follow,
we may yet be wise:
where the three kings travel,
three great faiths arise---:
Jesus Christ for Christians,,
Jesus Judah's son,
Prophet for the Muslim,
Wisdom in each one.*

Where the star enlightens,
light is shared around.
God has drawn no borders,
faith sees common ground:
Peace the hopeful journey,
justice without bar,
God's illumination
from the Christmas star.

Music: *Meadowlark* by Paul Koepke played by Danielle Eden

OFFERING

***Many are the gifts we have received,
many gifts we have given.
May the contribution we make today,
Bring joy and hope for living.
Amen.***

*We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table and those given
to support the mission of the church through automatic payment.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sue McRae

Angel songs will rise above this grieving earth.
The melody of joy will sound in sweetness
Beyond all weeping and despair.

***Sing out the carols of this day.
Jesus Christ has come!***

The light of the stars of hope
Will never be dimmed.
They will shine forth forever in visions of wisdom
Into the dark night of the people.

***Light the flames of warmth to welcome the one
Who comes to end the coldness of the lonely journeys!***

The child of love is abroad in all the earth,
Liberating those who are bound,
Standing with those who struggle for justice,
Breathing a costly life into peace.

***Lift up the hearts of the people!
Share the goodness of God.
Into every place of need,
Jesus Christ has come!***

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Joy to the world! The Christ is here!
The gift of peace to bring!
Let ev'ry heart a welcome place prepare.
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! The saviour lives!
With song your voice employ;
While fields and floods, rock, plains and hills
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Christ fills the world with truth and grace,
And asks each life to prove
The glories of God's righteousness
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders, and wonders of God's love!

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

May all that is good and tender and beautiful in your life remind you of
the Hidden Presence of the God who is present in many forms.
May the legends of Christmas remind you of
those things that can enrich the human spirit.
May the many journeys you make across the lifespan
keep you alive to what is of ultimate importance.
As you come and as you go, may your God go with you.

Frances MacNab This Hungry Time

*Thank you to everyone who participated in the service this morning, especially to
Vivien Chiu for the music; to Fiona McDougal for the reflection (and inspiration).
And thank you to those who helped in other ways.*

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Sunday Services through December and January – 10 am  
The church office will re-open on Monday 6 January.  
For urgent pastoral matters, call Jim on 027-680-1159.  
For urgent building matters, call Peter on 022-610-2910.