

St Andrew's on The Terrace

Hato Anaru o Te Parehua

Founded 1840

ORDER OF SERVICE



Christmas Day 2014

“But where are the others?”



Summer Bells—Jane Puckey

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***.

We will sing the hymns without announcement.
Please stand if you are able, for the hymns and the offering prayer.

*Please note your nearest fire exit.
The church and hall have been earthquake strengthened.
In an earthquake: drop, cover and hold.*

Today's service is created and led by Bronwyn White

MUSIC FOR GATHERING: ***Gloria, Gloria***

Words and music by Jacques Berthier, sung by the Taizé Community Choir

WORDS FOR GATHERING

Meri Kirihimete!

Happy Christmas!

Grace and peace be with you

And also with you.

May the love that breathes life
into all humanity and all of creation

be born in us today.

HYMN **Carol our Christmas**

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(i)

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 of
sweetness and air.

(ii)

Sing of the gold and the green
and the sparkle,
water and river
and lure of the beach

Sing in the happiness
of open spaces,
sing a nativity
summer can reach!

(iii)

Shepherds and musterers
move over hillsides,
finding, not angels,
but sheep to be shorn;

wise ones make journeys
whatever the season,
searching for signs of the
truth to be born.

(iv)

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.

WELCOME

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou, katoa.
Nau mai, haere mai ki te whare o te Kirihimete!
Kia ora tātou.

PRAYER

...these prayers and praises let us offer to the Eternal Spirit.

Prayer to the Eternal Spirit

Jim Cotter

**All: *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 the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and
come on earth.
With the bread 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 for ever. Amen.***

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW ROOM CANDLE

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Over the past four Sundays we have lit the Advent candles of peace, hope, joy and love. And today we come to light our Christmas candle.

Partner Story—Christian World Service Appeal

New gardens promise food security for residents on Tonga's Ha'apai island group. Members of Ama Takiloa have banded together to establish a demonstration garden to feed the community as well as the motivation to replant family plots. After January's Cyclone Ian, the people relied on each other for support when they had lost homes and livelihoods. Water, food and temporary shelter came from outside to help in the first months. Slowly the locals are finding the strength from each other to recover what they have lost. Now the gardens are growing they need help to replace fruit trees and water tank systems lost in the storm.



Lighting the Christmas Candle

Here the circle,
the ring of light is completed.
In its soft radiance
hope, peace, joy, and love
take flesh in and between us,
and our every heart
has become the manger.

*This is the beginning of our newness,
and God's invitation to partnership in re-creating the world.
May the child of Bethlehem be born anew
born in the manger of the world,
and cradled in our lives. Amen*

OFFERING to support Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Love Came Down*

Fiona McDougal, flute

PRAYER

As we bring these gifts
we recognise the diversity and abundance of the world,
and acknowledge that for many,
such simple things as clean air and water,
shelter and food, are scarce.

*With this offering, we take part in Creation's transforming power:
turning the mundane into the miraculous,
receiving and giving of ourselves.*

For all creation, we bring our gifts.

With all creation, we give thanks. Amen

WORDS OF WISDOM

Kunal Goel, Fiona McDougal, John Morgan

Luke 2: 1-19 New International Version

The Birth of Jesus

John 1:1-5, 9-12 The Message

The Life-Light

Contemporary reading:

Nativity by Joy Cowley

RESPONSE

For the Star that shone in the beginning
for the Light reborn in our hearts
for the Word embodied in us

We give thanks.

HYMN Who is my mother?

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(i)

Who is my mother,
Who is my brother?
All those who gather
round Jesus Christ,

Spirit-blown people
Born from the Gospel
Sit at the table,
round Jesus Christ.

(ii)

Differently abled,
Differently labelled,
Widen the circle
round Jesus Christ.

Crutches and stigmas,
Culture's enigmas,
All come together,
round Jesus Christ.

(iii)

Love will relate us
Colour or status
Can't segregate us
round Jesus Christ.

Family failings,
Human derailings,
All are accepted,
round Jesus Christ.

(iv)

Bound by one vision,
Met for one mission,
We claim each other
round Jesus Christ.

Here is my mother,
Here is my brother,
Kindred in spirit,
round Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Bronwyn White

But where are the others?

CAROL St Andrew's Carol

Lyrics: Bronwyn Angela White. Music: *Gloria*—Jacques Berthier

Final verse sung twice, as a round—those on the piano side begin.

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Come and see	What is the news?	What are our gifts?
the star in the sky	How can this be?	Who's at the feast?
the spangle of angels	Where do you stay?	Let-me wash your feet.
the spark in our eyes.	Come and see!	Will-you walk with me?
Come and see	Who is the Christ?	Come and share
the table prepared	Where is the baby?	the fishes and loaves
the wine in new skins	Who can we tell	the Kingdom right here
the Seder bread.	to come and see?	Come and see!

Spangle of angels / babe in the manger
spark in our eyes / star in the sky
fishes and loaves / who's at the feast?
Joy to the world! / Come and see!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

By faith, Mary let go of fear, and engendered a mothering God.

***This faith may lead us through labyrinths of doubt,
laughing hysterically, shouting in protest, lurching in denial,
finally making it to our tūrangawaewae.***

By faith, Joseph took comfort from a dream, embracing complex, reconstituted, extended family relationships.

***This faith might reshape our preconceptions,
birthing new ways of being whānau.***

By faith, wise ones followed the path of a new star to a strange land and an undistinguished stable.

***This faith might sometimes lead us down unpaved tracks,
with people we don't recognise, to destinations we didn't plan.***

Faith is the opposite of belief:

a bright-side-up coin whose shadow-side is hope.

Faith is relationship and way of life:

***caring for orphans and widows, casting out demons of self-doubt
and despair, and—occasionally—raising the dead.***

This is our faith: ***Living as if we matter.***

Living with uncertainty yet acting with confidence,
walking the star-led spiral to the heart of everything:
God in us, now—and here.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kunal Goel

HYMN *Where is the room?*

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(i)
Where is the room,
Where is the house of Christmas?
Where shall we welcome Jesus,
Where are the signs of home?
Where are the signs of home?

(ii)
Let there be room,
room for the friend and stranger,
room without hurt and anger,
room for whoever come,
room for whoever come.

(iii)
Let Christ have space,
place at the heart of living,
centre for birth's new breathing,
cradle for hope and peace,
cradle for hope and peace.

(iv)
Let love be here,
love from the Christmas stable,
love at our open table,
love to be shared all year,
love to be shared all year.

CLOSING WORDS AND BLESSING

May the angels' message of peace and goodwill stay with us—
hearts opening, as pohutukawa bursts into flower,
the spicy scent of pine trees fills our homes,
and angels leap off Christmas cards into our everyday lives,
affirming that we are loved and blessed.

Go in peace

and may the joy of Elizabeth, the loyalty of Joseph
and the courage of a teenage Mary
comfort and empower you;

the conception of angels
the passion of spirit
and the Love we call God be with you
fulfil and liberate
you, and those you love,
this day and always—

SUNG THREEFOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN Joy to the world

Words: Isaac Watts (adapted). Music: Handel

Joy to the world! The promised one
has come shalom to bring.
Let every heart prepare a room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The child is born!
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.

Gracious and true, the Healing One
will make the nations prove
the glories of
the ways of peace,
And wonders of God's love
And wonders of God's love
And wonders, wonders of God's love.



Nativity — Brian Kershisnik

*Thank you to all who helped with today's service,
especially Vivien Chiu and Fiona McDougal for the music*