

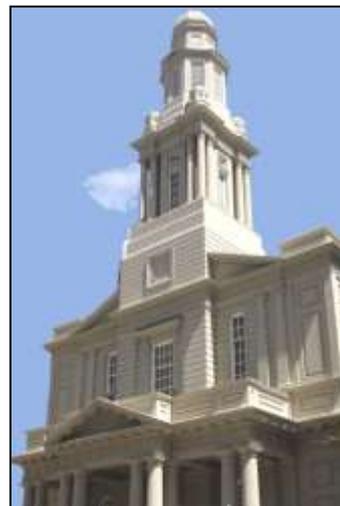
St Andrew's on The Terrace

Hato Anaru o Te Parehua

Founded 1840

ORDER OF SERVICE

25 December 2015



Christmas Day



A New Zealand Christmastide

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.
AA is the NZ hymnbook Alleluia Aotearoa. 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.

GATHERING

We have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.
The Christ candle is now lit to proclaim
the coming of all those and more,
justice, compassion and grace.

Today we sing alleluia
Christ is born!
CHRIST IS BORN!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O come all ye faithful
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born above the angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

O sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all who celebrate God's holy word.
To the Creator, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him,

This bright day, we greet you,
born this happy morning,
Jesus! for evermore your name be adored.
Word spoken truly, now with us appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,

OPENING RESPONSES *(please remain standing)*

Our attention turns to the manger
Usually used for animal fodder, this time holding a significant child

Our attention turns to the mother and father

Usually a carpenter and wife, now significant guardians

Our attention turns within

Usually busy and preoccupied, today taking a moment to receive

Our attention turns to the gift we have been given

Usually commercial, this time, the gift of life.

WELCOME

Kia ora tatou.

Kia ora.

PRAYER

JESUS PRAYER

Jim Cotter paraphrase on card

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW ROOM CANDLE

CAROL

'Away in a Manger'

Words adapted by © George Stuart and Susan Jones:
Music © William James Kirkpatrick. WOV 242 Cradle Song

Away in a manger, no pillow or 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;
all children are blessed by him, we will all share
a wonderful friendship in his tender care.

PASSING THE PEACE

Feel free to pass the peace with those nearby or move to greet others further away. Passing the peace consists of shaking hands and saying "Peace be with you." The response is "Peace be with you" or just "And with you." Or, simply saying "Hello" is a good idea. Also feel free to simply observe if you wish!

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Annemarie Treadwell

Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Gospel

John 1: 1-14

Contemporary reading

'In the Beginning' by Susan Jones

Read by Roger Jones

In the beginning there was hardly anything
well, really, nothing at all,
just darkness, not even a singularity existed then,
nano seconds before the Big Bang.

Yet, we read John's conclusion that
"In the beginning
the Word was with God."
So is God nothing, is the Word nothing?
Or are they both Something?

At Christmas time, do we major on
cute babies, donkeys, kings and shepherds
because to wrap our minds about what it is like
when nothing is actually something
and something nothing,
is too hard?

Is this where quantum entanglement could help?
Photons 'knowing' each other though kilometres apart?

Is this where dark matter might help,
that in the darkness there is actually something there?

Let us keep asking the questions:
Why does this cute baby
captivate us so much
that we pivot the year around his birth?
why does this man's teaching
captivate us so much
we pivot the Western calendar around his birth?
Let us keep asking the question
right from the beginning,
'Who is this baby for us?'

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.

HYMN

AA 18 'Christmas in the picture book'

Words © Dorothy Ballantyne Music © Colin Gibson

Christmas in the picture book
 all gold and white with snow;
 Winter in the desert,
 where the three Kings go.
 Ice on the camel rein, rime on the crown;
 snow around the stable doors
 snow around the stable doors
 snow around the stable doors
 of Beth'lem town

I carol baby Jesus
 on a nor'west day;
 a summer wind is blowing
 across the beach and bay.
 Seagulls are wheeling
 where the children run to swim;
 laughter in the breakers
 laughter in the breakers
 laughter in the breakers
 is their Christmas hymn

REFLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

*We know that traditionally Christmas is dark
 in the inky blackness of a northern winter,
 fairy lights twinkle with candles, over fir trees and snow*

*We know in this new world, Christmas is light
 days are long, beaches beckon,
 barbeques tantalise the nose, sun warms the body.*

*We ask: 'Is this baby a prophet for all seasons
 whether we are parched dry in summer sun
 or drenched in winter rain?'*

*'Is this child one who can surf the long wave with us
 walk the track, ski the hill, ride the train?'*
*'Will the man he grows into be a leader
 we can follow with integrity;*

***can he be trusted to stay the course?
We know his answer to these questions.
Were he to ask us those questions of us
what would we affirm?***

Silence for reflection as we are seated.

OFFERING PRAYER *(said together)*

These gifts of food and money are given with gratitude that we have received much ourselves. May they make a difference through the partner agencies with whom Christian World Services works. May hope, peace, joy and love be conveyed through this money to those in need worldwide. Amen

We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table, and those which wing their way electronically from our banks to the church's account.

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY OF ST ANDREW'S

*People share notices and visitors are welcomed. If you have a notice, please move to the front row, ready to speak **briefly** from the lectern.*

For the benefit of newcomers, please introduce yourself before you begin.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bronwyn White

PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S

on card

HYMN

'Hark! Hear angel song.'

Words: Charles Wesley (adapted)

Tune: CH 4 301 Mendelssohn (Bethlehem)

Hark! hear angel song surround
Wellington harbour, Marlborough Sounds.
Sparkling bright on every side
joy arrives on morning tides!
See the hills gleam green with light
see the sky, deep blue, clouds white
sonshine, even when it rains,
lights our souls as each grace gains.
*All creation strains to sing
Glory to this different king*

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace
hail the Sun of Righteousness
light and life to all he brings
health and healing in those wings
justice, love, and mercy come

change our world and bring us home
to each other; reconcile
God and creatures, adult, child.
*All creation strains to sing
Glory to this different king*

SENDING OUT

The gift of today is how it can change us, (if we allow it),
to live more adventurously, more completely, in the world

***Let us be present each moment,
conscious each minute that the holiness of God
is spread abroad not only this, but every day.***

SUNG AMEN

THANK YOU

Vivien Chiu
Our Musician today

Unless otherwise stated all hymns are used by permission CCLI Licence 3341550

*There is a 2-hour parking limit on the street in the Wellington CBD on Sundays.
If you are staying for an after-church activity, you can move your car into the car park,
or move to a new space on the street.*

| Thanks to all our volunteers today | |
|---|---|
| Welcoming | Roger Jones, Henry Boidya & Keith Rimmer |
| Sound | Tony Cowdry |
| Offering | Henry Boidya & Keith Rimmer |
| Coffee/tea | Not required |
| Time with the Children | Not required |
| Readings | Annemarie Treadwell, Roger Jones |
| Prayers of the People | Bronwyn White |
| Musician | Vivien Chiu |
| Rainbow Room Helper | In recess for holidays, toys at the back of the church. |

| On duty Sunday 27 Dec 15 | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Welcoming | Kath Kerr, Trish McBride |
| Sound | Bronwyn White |
| Offering | Joan Tyler, Molly Seah |
| Coffee/tea | Rosemary Lawrence, Dawn Cowdry, Jon Schrader |
| Time with the Children | Frank Cook |
| Readings | Ann Barrie |
| Prayers of the People | Cameron Smart |
| Musician | Vivien Chiu |
| Rainbow Room Helper | In recess for holidays, toys at the back of the church. |

MISSION STATEMENT OF ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

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.

MINISTRY AT ST ANDREW'S – THE TEAM

| | |
|--|---|
| Minister | Susan Jones |
| Parish Council Convenor | Sandra Kirby |
| Parish Council Clerk | Maxine Cunningham |
| Treasurer | Paul Barber |
| Facilities Management Group | Douglas Wood |
| Pastoral Convenors | Fiona McDougal, Brian Burrell, Linda Wilkins |
| Church Music Coordinator | Vivien Chiu |
| Theologian in Residence | Lloyd Geering |
| Presbytery Representative | Heather Macfarlane |
| Concert Coordinator | Marjan van Waardenberg |
| Rainbow Room Coordinator | Chris Carey-Smith |
| Church, Conference and Arts Manager | David Medland |
| Office Assistant | Karyn Bishop |
| Custodian, SATRS Administrator | Peter Cowley |
| Roster Coordinator | Rosemary Lawrence |

St Andrew's on The Terrace

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