

ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

CHRISTMAS DAY 2012

✦ SENSING ANGELS HERE AND NOW —
EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THEM, LISTEN TO THEIR SONG! ✦



Mary the Colorful One
Cletus Behlmann, SM

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold italic**.*
*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.*
We also stand while the offering is brought forward and dedicated.

GREETING

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Angels we have heard on high

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

OPENING RESPONSES

Come all you shepherds and shearers.
Put down your blades.
Kick the fleece into a corner
and hurry on down to the birthing place.

Christ is with us.

It is dark right now in Bethlehem
but here the sun blazes in a fanfare of brass
and gulls float like scraps of paper
announcing to a blue, blue sea,

Christ is with us.

Not in a stable this time,
but a house-truck parked by the creek
under a snow of manuka blossom,
Mary, the baby, two cats and a dog
and Joseph making pancakes
over a little gas stove.

Walk quietly now, for this is holy time.
Kick your boots off at the step
and go in with open eyes
ready to be surprised by God.

Christ is with us.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRAYER

Christine C. Robinson

May these moments of quiet lead us to the heart of the season,
which is peace.
May we breathe deeply of peace in this quiet place,
relax into its warmth, know we are safe here,
and let us open our hearts to this day's message...
Like the shepherds on the hill,
may we know that we need never be afraid.
Like the journeying wise, may we always have the courage
to follow our stars.
Like the angels, may we cry peace to a troubled world...
And may this season of peace and goodwill nudge our world
towards its ideals, for then will Christmas truly dawn.

CAROL

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold the
fond desire of nations

*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is born.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in expectation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!

chorus

Yes, child, we greet you,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to you be all glory given.
Word of creation,
now in flesh appearing.

chorus

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Over the past four Sundays we have lit the Advent candles
of peace, hope, joy and love.

***We light them again and remember...
the ways peace, hope, joy and love
are always brought to birth.***

And today we come to light our Christmas candle.

***It is a welcoming candle.
It brings light and love
as we celebrate in the warmth of summer.***

It is a candle of understanding.

It lights up the darkness
and drives away fear.

***It is a candle of truth.
It will lead us in unknown paths
to learn more about the mysteries of life.***

CAROL

Carol our Christmas
Shirley Murray

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.

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

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.

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.

Children come to the front

CHILDREN'S STORY

Margaret Mayman

CAROL

Hark the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn king,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and all life 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 child 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.

WORD IN TEXTS

Be not afraid—Susan Maginn

Anne-Marie Treadwell

Luke 2:8-20—Inclusive version

Clare Brockett

From *Letter to a friend*—Fra Giovanni (1513 CE)

Janet Horncy

No Heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in today.

Take Heaven!

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden
in this present little instance.

Take Peace!

The gloom of the world is but a shadow.

Behind it, yet within our reach, is Joy.

There is radiance and glory in the darkness ...
could we but see and to see we have only to look.
I beseech you to look.

Life is so generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by its covering,
cast them away as ugly or heavy or hard.

Remove the covering and you will find beneath it a living
splendor, woven of love, by wisdom, with power.

Welcome it, grasp it,

and you touch the Angel's hand that brings it to you.

Take Christmas!

RESPONSE

For the Word that was in the beginning
for the Word reborn in our hearts
for the Word embodied in us

We give thanks.

REFLECTION

Angel Messages

Written and read by Bronwyn Angela White

SOLO

“How beautiful are the feet”

Madeline Smith

Air (Soprano) from *The Messiah* by G F Handel

THE OFFERING *(For the Christian World Service Christmas Gift Appeal)*

When the song of the Angel is stilled,
When the Star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

***To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers and sisters —
To make music in the heart***

And to radiate the Light of Christ...
in all that we do and in all that we say.

The work of Christmas lies before us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CAROL

Joy to the world

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: Handel

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 ways of peace,
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders, wonders of God's love.

BLESSING AND SUNG AMEN

This joyful Christmas Day:
Go in peace, in joy, in hope, in love.
And may the angels' message of peace and goodwill stay with you
— hearts opening
as pohutakawa 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.

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*Thank you to everyone who participated in the service this morning, especially to  
Peter Franklin and Madeline Smith  
for the music; to Bronwyn White 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
Roster sign-up sheets are at the back of the church.

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The church office will re-open on Monday 7 January.  
For urgent pastoral matters, call Margaret on 027-226-4608.  
For urgent building matters, call Peter on 022-610-2910.

