

ORDER OF SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE 2020



A blanket of snow covers the little town of Bethlehem In Pieter Bruegel's oil painting of 1566



Congregational responses are printed in **bold**. 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.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Peter Franklin

INTROIT:

GATHERING

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Words and Music[®] Colin Gibson COC 22

Barbara Sampson (adapted)

St. Andrew's Singers

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

CH4 303 'It came upon the midnight clear'

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

1. 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.

- 2. 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.
- 3. 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 & INTRODUCTION

E te whanau a Te Karaiti Nga mihi aroha ki a tatou katoa **Kia ora tatou**

AN ADVENT WREATH LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE

Sandra and Tony Kirby

This **first candle of hope** we light is to remember those whom we have loved and lost.



(First candle is lit)

We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season in the hope they will continue to make a difference to our lives *May God's caring love surround them and us.* This **second candle of peace** we light is to mend the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, loss of jobs, loss of health and home.

(Second candle is lit.)



We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that we receive the gift of peace. *Refresh, restore, renew us we pray, and lead us peacefully into the future*

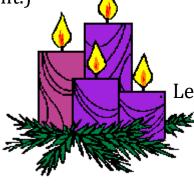
This **third candle of joy** we light is for ourselves.

(Third candle is lit.)



We pause to remember past weeks and months and years: the disbelief, anger and 'down' times, the poignancy of reminiscing, hugs and handshakes of family and friends, who stood with us. Let us remember dawn defeats darkness for 'joy comes in the morning'

This **fourth candle of love** we light is to remember the gift of love which the Christmas story offers us. (Fourth candle is lit.)



We remember Creativity - God companions us, sharing our life, Being -With -Us, Emmanuel Let us look for new possibilities now, in the present. *Spirit of God, calm our hearts so we can hear your still, small voice.*

SILENCE

SOLO:

O HOLY NIGHT (Words: Placide Cappeau; Music: Adolphe Charles Adams) Ella Briggs

Children come to the front

STORYTIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Dawn Cowdry

ST ANDREW'S SINGERS

Te Harinui

Words & Music by Willow Macky



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.

Ben Gray

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.

ST ANDREW'S SINGERS Pohutukawa Carol

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Gospel

Luke 2: 1-7 **Anna Smith** The Birth Luke 2: 8-14 The Angels Luke 2: 15-20 The Shepherds

RESPONSE

For the Word in scripture, For the Word among us, For the Word within us. We give thanks

REFLECTION

Martin the Cobbler

CAROL

CC52 'You are born in us again'

Words © 1996 Mark Wilson. Music arr. Shona Murray, descant Colin Gibson

1. 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, *(repeat last line)*

Maxine Cunningham

Gavin Watson

Jim Cunningham

2. 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 summer rain you come, *(repeat last line)*

3. 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, *(repeat last line)*

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 freedomcome 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.

OFFERING FOR CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

HYMN OF DEDICATION

COC 48 'Where is the room?'

Words ©Shirley Erena Murray Music ©David Dell 1993 AA154

- Where is the room, where is the house of Christmas? Where shall we welcome Jesus, where are the signs of home?
- 2. Let Christ have space, place at the heart of living, centre for birth's new breathing, cradle for hope and peace.

- 3. Let there be room, room for the friend and stranger, room without hurt or anger, room for whoever come.
- Let love be here, love for the Christmas stable, love at our open table, love to be shared all year.



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.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

At this Table we give thanks for justice, love, peace and freedom. At this Table we give thanks for friends and strangers together in community in this safe place. **For everyone born a place at the Table. We are all invited.**

COMMUNION HYMN

COC 14 (ii) 'Come now Lord Jesus'

Words: © 1992 Shirley Murray Music: Traditional Zulu arr. Roy Tankersley

- Come now, Lord Jesus, enter our Christmas, be to us no stranger in this new made manger.
- Come, cold and crying comfort denying, no place to receive you, few yet to believe you.
- Come, small and human, born of a woman, yet a child much greater, of our own Creator.
- 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.

THE STORY...

We remember the stories from our tradition....

How on many occasions Jesus would share a meal with friends. Bread and wine, the very basics of life, shared in community. How bread would be taken, a blessing offered, and then shared amongst them. And all ate.

How some wine would be poured out, a blessing offered, and then passed amongst them. All of them drank.

When they gathered in this way it was a time of concern,

conversation and celebration.

The bread and the wine symbolised

human lives interconnected with other human lives,

and the power of giving and receiving.

May the passion for life as seen in Jesus and in the lives and struggles of many other committed and faithful people then and now, enable us to dream and to risk....

Together may we re-imagine the world.

Together may we work to make all things new.

Together may we celebrate the possibilities and hope we each have and are called to share.

For everyone born, a place at the Table.

THE BREAD IS BROKEN

We break the bread for the broken Earth, ravaged and plundered for greed.

May there be healing for our beautiful blue and green planet.

We break the bread for our broken humanity, for the powerful and the powerless trapped by exploitation and oppression.

May there be healing for humanity.

We break the bread for those who follow other paths; who travel on a different road from us; those who think and act differently; those whose belief system is different to ours; those who see our world through different eyes of ethnicity and culture.

May there be healing where there is pain and woundedness.

We break this bread for the unhealed hurts and wounds that lie within us all.

May we, too, be healed.

THE WINE IS POURED

This is the cup of peace and of new life for all. A sign of love for the community of hope.

A reminder of the call to live life fully, to love wastefully, and to be all that we can be.

Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God, brood over these bodily things, and make us one body with Christ; that we may no longer be in bondage to the principalities and powers that enslave creation, but may know your liberating peace such as the world cannot give.

THE BREAD AND THE WINE ARE SHARED



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 thy 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.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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

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

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

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.

Child of Christmas story, stable straw, and star, small and sweet and gentle: tell us who you are.

Child whose baby finger round our own is curled, come to melt our hearts, and come to change the world.

Child of Jew and Gentile, child of white and black – teach us how to love you, teach us what we lack.

Child of Mary's courage, birthed in human pain, tell us what your name is – be our hope again.

Silent night, holy night: all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night: shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia'; Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night: wondrous star, lend your light; with the angel's let us sing Alleluia to our King; Christ our Saviour is born, Christ our Saviour is born.

Joy to the world! A new age dawns. It comes, 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.

Graceful and true, the Saviour brings compassion all may share for poor and homeless, so may they find their life becomes more fair, their life becomes more fair their life, their life becomes more fair.

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!

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 & SUNG AMEN

May the love that gives to life its beauty, the reverence that gives to life its sacredness, and the purposes that give to life its deep significance be strong within each of you and lead you into ever deepening relationships with all of life. And the Grace......

RECESSIONAL CAROL

COC 7 'Carol our Christmas'

Words: © 1986 Shirley Erena Murray Music by Colin Gibson. Music © 1992 Hope Publishing Co

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.

ORGAN POSTLUDE



Thank you to everyone who participated in the service this evening and to Peter Franklin (organ) and Mark Stamper (piano) Soloist Anna Briggs the St Andrew's Singers Fiona Mc Dougal (flute) and Mike Wespel Rose (guitar Thank you also to those who read, led prayers, served communion and lit candles. And to those who served refreshments and cleaned up afterwards.

.....

Christmas Day 10am Gathering led by Rev. Barrie Keenan.

Sunday 27 December 10am Sunday Gathering led by Jim Cunningham

Sunday 3 January 10am Sunday Gathering led by Bronwyn White

HOLIDAY PASTORAL SUPPORT

Rev. Dr Jim Cunningham (04 297 1694 & 027 680 1159) can be contacted from 23rd December to 14th January 2021. After January 14 please phone the office in the first instance.

BUILDING SECURITY

Call Armourgaurd 04 499 6420 in the case of an Emergency please call 111

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

Interim Moderator	To be confirmed
Parish Council Convenor	Lynne Dovey
Treasurer	Paul Barber
Facilities Management Group	Sandra Kirby
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Linda Wilkins
Church Music Coordinator	Mark Stamper
Theologian in Residence	Lloyd Geering
Presbytery Representative	Lois Robertson
Concert Coordinator	Kristina Zuelicke
Faith in Action Co-ordinator	Margaret Rushbrook
Rainbow Room Coordinator	Jules Collinson
Centre Manager	Laetitia Brunell
Office Administrator	Jillene Everett
Facilities Assistant(s)	Tom Crichton
Roster Coordinator	Pam Fuller

St Andrew's on The Terrace

www.standrews.org.nz

30 The Terrace – P O Box 5203, Wellington 6145 Office Hours: 9 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday

Find us on Facebook

Phone (04) 472-9211 office@standrews.org.nz



Interim Moderator – To be confirmed For pastoral care matters contact Rev. Dr Jim Cunningham (027 680 1159) in the meantime



