

ORDER OF SERVICE

27 December 2020

Christmas 1



The Massacre of the Innocents
By Leon Cogniet (1794-1880)

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

Wherever you are on your faith 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***, and stand if you are able, for the hymns and the offering prayer. We usually sing the hymns without announcement. To use the ***loop system*** in the church, turn your hearing aids on to the appropriate setting.

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 led by Rev. Dr Jim Cunningham

GATHERING

It is in the darkness that light shines most brightly,
and it is in the darkness of life,
darkness of fear,
and superstition,
and oppression,
that God gives the gift of light.

We are called to become aware
at this Christmas Season,
of the dark places of our world
so that we might bring,
in our own lives,
the light of God's love,
to those who dwell in darkness in our day.

Worship is our time of recognition,
both of the darkness that is present,
and of the gift of light we have to share.

Let us worship in the presence of the One we name God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

WOV 224 'Joy to the World'

Words: Isaac Watts (alt) Music G F Handel

1. 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.

2. 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.

WELCOME

Kia ora tatou.

Kia ora.

OPENING RESPONSES

Among us the Spirit of God conceives new life
and we feel the life within us.

In our history the Christ makes gentle entry
and we see the light before us.

With our dreams the truth of our God is revealed
and we welcome the hope of the world.

PRAYER

God, who arrives as the vulnerable One,
we confess that the mystery of your presence
often eludes us.

If we have lost the sense of wonder,
if we have given Christmas away to the children
as though we have outgrown its stories,
if we have let the words and carols flow over us
with little excitement,

**fill our emptiness with the fullness
of your surprising life.**

If we have been overtaken
with our efforts to celebrate
and exhausted the reasons for celebration,
relieved that it is over and that a newer year is waiting in the wings,
**fill our emptiness with the fullness
of your surprising life.**

If we are overcome by losses and betrayals,
empty of innocent hope,
lacking in love and the surrounding care
which makes Christmas real,

**fill our emptiness with the fullness
of your surprising life.**

Listen! The Word is born among us!
Christ is come among us
and nothing can separate us
from the love of God.
Grace and Peace is the gift to us today.

JESUS' 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 freedom sustain our hope and come
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.*

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW CANDLE

PASSING THE PEACE

*Traditionally we shake hands to pass the peace and say "peace be with you. Now that Covid is here
we ask that you pass the peace without shaking hands.*

A MOMENT OF SILENCE AS WE PREPARE TO LISTEN

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Trish McBride

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 1: 8-22

Gospel

Matthew 2: 13-18

Contemporary Reading

Disturbing The Silence On Child Abuse In New Zealand Opinion: Lynley Tulloch SCOOP News 15 Feb 2020

The most recent child abuse case in New Zealand has affected many of us deeply. This particular child - just 4 years old - was bashed so badly that part of his brain has died. It happened on 29th January 2020. He received a continued beating over several days and will be severely brain damaged for life.

Nearly as hard to deal with is the silence from those who perpetrated this violence on a young child. Despite the fact that there were many people present while this child was battered, the family has closed shop.

Who, in the words of Simon and Garfunkel, is going to disturb the silence?
It is such a difficult topic to write on, and an even harder one to comprehend. We understand so little about child abuse, consign it to the box of “sick individuals”, and in doing so simplify a very complex issue.
Collectively, as a nation we grieve, and we feel anger at this senseless and violent act. Maybe anger is better than hopelessness. Our children need us to still hope for them.

Yet our sadness is amplified by the knowledge that this is going to happen again and again. New Zealand has one of the worst records of child abuse in the ‘developed world’, with one child killed every five weeks. There are 14,000 substantiated findings of child abuse every year in New Zealand. Police respond to a domestic call-out every seven minutes.

RESPONSE

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

HYMN

‘Herod waiting, Herod watching’

Words: © Andrew Pratt
Music: Blauenwern WOV 165ii

1. Herod waiting, Herod watching,
Herod grasping, holding power,
Herod fearful for the future,
Herod counting every hour.
Now the things that he was fearing:
love and justice, peace and health,
here embodied in a person,
God incarnate, heaven's wealth.

2. This was more than he could stomach,
human wine skins tear and rend.
Herod's dream had been confounded,
human power had met its end.
Many children now were crying,
temper triumphed, babies dead.
Mary, Joseph made an exit,
every step was filled with dread.

3. Into exile they were driven,
fear would ripple through each life:
Jesus challenged vested interests.
Gracious love fuelled hate and strife.
And the children still are crying,
forced to war and harmed by hate.
Still our world is deaf to hear them,
still our loving comes too late.

REFLECTION

Jim Cunningham

They're Only Children.....

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Judy Dumbleton

HYMN (seated)

'Dear Jesus, in whose life I see'

Words: John Hunter (1848-1917) RCH 640

Music: Winscott RCH 338

1. Dear Jesus, in whose life I see
all that I would but fail to be.
Let thy clear light for ever shine
to shame and guide this life of mine.
2. Though what I dream and what I do
in my weak days are sometimes two,
help me, oppressed by thing undone,
O Thou, whose deeds and dreams were one.

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

*We dedicate our lives and all that we have
for hope, for peace, for joy, and for love.
Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.*

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY OF ST ANDREW'S

People share notices and visitors are welcomed. If you have a notice not already in the order of service, 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

Lynne Dovey

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of Colombia and the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. We remember the detainees of Manus and Nauru Islands, yearning that their cases be resolved. In New Zealand, we remember those in Parliament, and today we name Louisa Wall and Angie Warren-Clark, list MPs. Here in the Central Presbytery, we pray for the leaders and people of St James' Union Church, Masterton.

PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S

*Renew your people, God,
and renew our life in this place.
Give us a new spirit of unity
with all who follow the Way of Jesus
and new bonds of love
with people of other faiths.*

*Bless the city in which we live
that it may be a place
where honest dealing,
good government,
the desire for beauty,
and the care for others flourish.*

*Bless this church
that what we know of your will
may become what we do,
and what we believe
the strong impulse
of our worship and work. Amen*

HYMN

WOV 669 'I am the light of the world'

Words: Howard Thurman and Jim Strathdee Music © 1969 Jim Strathdee

*I am the light of the world.
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love
you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

1. When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:
2. To find the lonely and the lost,
to heal their broken souls with love,
to feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above;
3. To free the prisoners from their chains,
to make the powerful care,
to re-build the nations
with strength of good will,
to be at one with people everywhere;
4. To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in
an old man's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth.

BLESSING

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU

Judy Dumbleton

our musician today

Unless otherwise stated all hymns are used by permission CCLI Licence 341550

Words/music to new hymns and gathering statement, prayers and affirmation are original unless acknowledged.



AUDIO REFLECTIONS

Sunday reflections are usually available on our website.
<http://www.standrews.org.nz/category/sunday-gathering>

We welcome all visitors and invite you to stay for morning tea or coffee.

Please sign the visitors' book at the back of the church.

We hope you enjoyed worshipping with us. At St Andrew's we want you to feel at home—to join in with the activities of our community of faith, or to come and find your own spiritual place in your own time. If you would like more information about St Andrew's or to explore becoming a member or associate member, please fill in one of the welcome leaflets (at the back of the church) and hand it to a minister or a welcoming team member.

Wellington City Council now charges for weekend parking on the street. As well as that, there is a two hour parking limit. If you have parked on the street initially and are staying for an after-church activity, it may be possible to move your car into the St Andrew's/Braemar car park but please be careful that you do not block anyone in.

GENEROUS GIVING

St Andrew's depends on the generous giving of members and friends. If you would like to make a donation or support our work through planned giving, please contact our Parish Office or Treasurer. Bank account for donations is: St Andrews on The Terrace, BNZ Lambton Qy, 02-0534-0004022-02

ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY NOTICES

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY MINISTRY - FOODBASKET

DCM appreciates the food basket contributions that St Andrew's makes which help provide food and essentials for those in need in Wellington. Currently, they are especially in need of toilet paper and laundry powder. Soups, tinned, packaged or cup of soups, muesli bars, biscuits and crackers are always gratefully received too. At this time of year some Christmas treats would be gratefully received. Brian Burrell.

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

All Sunday Gatherings during December and January begin at 10am and include morning tea.

St Andrew's Centre re opens 14 January

Queries: 04 472 9211 or office@standrews.org.nz

See www.standrews.org.nz for recordings of Gatherings

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

SUNDAY ROSTERS

A folder with an outline of each duty is now kept on the back table. If you are unable to do your rostered duty please arrange a swap/substitute and inform the office. Thank you.

Thanks to this week's volunteers

Welcoming	Brian and Lynette Burrell
Sound	Tony Cowdry
Laptop	Cameron Smart
Offering	Joan Tyler, Tony Pears
Coffee/tea	Lois Robertson, Maxine Cunningham
Time with the Children	Dawn Cowdry
Readings	Trish McBride
Prayers of the People	Lynne Dovey
Rainbow Room Helper	Not required (School holidays)
Library	Mike Wespel-Rose
Musician	Judy Dumbleton

On duty Sunday 3 January

Welcoming	Fiona McDougal, Pam Fuller
Sound	Frank Cook
Laptop	Cameron Smart
Offering	John Morgan, Bridget Martin
Coffee/tea	Barrie and Jenn Keenan
Time with the Children	Not required (School holidays)
Readings	Tony Kirby
Prayers of the People	Sandra Kirby
Rainbow Room Helper	Not required (School holidays)
Library	Ann Barrie
Musician	Mark Stamper

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's

Sunday 27 December 10am Sunday Gathering led by Jim Cunningham

Sunday 3 January 10am Sunday Gathering led by Bronwyn White

Note: Cuppa n Chat resumes on Wednesday 13 January

Wednesday Lunchtime concerts resume 24 March 2021 at 12:15pm and

Centering Prayer in the Centre resumes on Thursday 4 February at 12:30pm.

STANDARD MONTHLY SUNDAY CYCLE OF ACTIVITIES AFTER SERVICE

1st Sunday Communion during service, followed by Exploring Faith.

2nd Sunday Congregational Brunch on even months Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec

3rd Sunday Congregational Conversation

4th Sunday Social Justice

5th Sunday if there is one - nothing planned

NOTES AND CONTEMPLATIONS

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

Phone (04) 472-9211

office@standrews.org.nz



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Interim Moderator – To be confirmed

For pastoral care matters contact Rev. Dr Jim Cunningham (027 680 1159) in the meantime

