

ORDER OF SERVICE

3 January 2021

Christmas 2 “Mothering God”



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 Bronwyn White

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

'Prayer for the New Year'

Words: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam*

Tune 'Ring Out, Wild Bells'/'Carol of the Bells': Crawford Gates & Mykola Leontovych
performed by Kat Tingey

GATHERING

A New Year for Beloved Community

—Debra Haffner

Happy new year!

Happy new year for our beloved community.

***We gather together at the start of this new year
as people of many ages
as people of many sexual orientations and gender identities
as people of many races and ethnicities
as people of many theologies and religious backgrounds
woven together in our love for this community.***

With our hopes and dreams and prayers for the year before us
With our hearts and minds and spirits ready
to be touched by the year before us

***With our hands and time and talents ready
to be offered in the year before us.***

We gather together at the start of this new year
with gratitude and love
for those who have come before us,
for those who stand here with us.

May it be a good year. May it be a sweet year.

Come, let us worship together.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

‘Where is the room?’

Carol our Christmas 48

Music: © 1993 David Dell. Words: ©1992 Shirley Murray

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?

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

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

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.

WELCOME

Ngā mihi o te tau hou! ***Happy New Year!***
Kia ora tatou. ***Kia ora.***

GREETING EACH OTHER—*please remain seated*

We greet the people sitting beside us, then listen in silence—or join in singing quietly:

MUSIC

‘Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth’

Lyrics: Julian of Norwich; adapted by Jean Wiebe Janzen
performed by The Concordia Choir

PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace be with you

And also with you.

Peacefulness to the people

and peace to the land.

PRAYER

Meditation for a New Year

Amanda Poppei

Bronwyn White

A NEW PRAYER

Creating, Evolving, Nurturing Spirit

*We honour the mana of naming, describing and bringing-into-being
through the power of Breath and Word.*

*The ground on which we stand is holy, Whenua Tapu,
a place of mana tangata, where we show leadership
in care for the rights of all people;
a commonwealth of justice and liberation.*

*We are thankful for our resources:
we will be generous in sharing with others,
gracious in learning from others.
May we not offend when we mean to welcome,
not interject when we need to listen.*

*We let go of past hurts and memories which scar us—
things we have done, things done to us,
harmful attitudes we have absorbed.*

*We will be mindful, not falling back into negative patterns,
as we learn new ways of being,
a new appreciation of our full humanity.
We focus on things that are life-giving and true,
rejecting defensiveness and cynicism.*

*We live in the abundance of the universe:
the sustenance of our mother the earth,
the nurture of our father the sky,
the oxygen-breath of forest, the manaakitanga of land.*

*For this is our promise today, our aspiration for tomorrow
and our dream for the future.
Kia kaha te mahi! Amen*

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW CANDLE

HYMN

'I am the light of the world' (WOV 669)

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

Chorus

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!

Chorus

2. To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above!

Chorus

3. 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!

Chorus

*If you have a notice, please come forward during the last verse and chorus.
Be ready to introduce yourself (for newcomers & visitors) and speak **briefly** from the lectern.*

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY OF ST ANDREW'S

OFFERING

*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.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer at New Year

Tim Atkins

As we share our gifts of money & food & time:

May we all be grounded in living our values in the coming year.

May we all spread our wings to new heights in the coming year.

***May the fire of our commitment to our ethical values
burn brighter than before.***

And may we all be authentically ourselves in the coming year.

Amen

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Tony Kirby

Gospel

selected verses from John 1:1-14 (NRSV)

Historical reading

from Revelations of Divine Love

Julian of Norwich (C.1374)

Contemporary reading

Suddenly there is light all around

Bronwyn Angela White, You who delight me

RESPONSE

Michelle L Torigian

The light shines in dimness

And dimness did not overtake the light

The light shines in each space.

No gloom, no despair will overtake it.

The light shines in our souls.

The shadows of life did not shade Divine light.

We celebrate the light of Christ

A steadfast presence from the beginning

which will shine through the end of time.

REFLECTION: "Mothering God"

Bronwyn White

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sandra Kirby

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of Costa Rica and Panama and the environmental and conservation organisations in Costa Rica and Panama and throughout the world. We remember the detainees of Manus and Nauru Islands, yearning that their cases be resolved. In Aotearoa New Zealand, we remember those in Parliament, and today we name Aupito William Sio and Stuart Smith and the people of their electorates of Māngere and Kaikōura. Here in the Central Presbytery, we pray for the leaders and people of Miramar Uniting Church.

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

'Light of lights beholden' (AA89)

Indigo II—Words & music by Jenny McLeod ©1983

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Light of lights beholden
we from days of olden
sang this song
for to understand
that peace upon this planet
was pledged to come.

Each to other, sister, brother,
born for life and song,

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

Darkness all around us,
light has always found us,
light will come
where the dark is deepest,
greater light will keep us
safe from harm.

Troubled times will always find
a voice of trouble doom,

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Cara Heafey

***Let us look for Christ wherever we go
Let us never stop seeking
Believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness
Which the darkness shall not overcome.***

BENEDICTION

Go into this new year with courage.
Follow a star that's twinkling with curiosity
blazing with possibility
leading to places you've dreamed of finding.
Know as you midwife and mother and bring forth
the Righteous Kindom
the Beloved Community
that Love—Mother, Christa, Sophia—
surrounds you every moment of every day.
So go in peace, to love and to serve
this day and always—

SUNG THREEFOLD AMEN



THANK YOU

Mark Stamper
our Musician today