



ORDER OF SERVICE

10 DECEMBER 2023

Advent 2

Children of Gaza. What did they do to deserve this?

Advent will not be a time of Peace for them!

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.

We seek to be a community that is safe and welcoming for everyone regardless of sexual orientation, relationship status, gender identity or expression, sex characteristics, age, mental and physical abilities, mental health, neurotype, economic power, ethnicity, faith or belief.

We recognise that being inclusive is an ongoing journey and we are continuing to learn. We are committed to challenging discrimination within the church and wider society.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in **bold italics**. Please stand if you are able, for the hymns and the offering prayer. We usually 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.

Today's service is led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

PRELUDE

Come now, Saviour of the nations

by Samuel Scheidt (1587 - 1654)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are awake. Our eyes are open.

We see the day before us:

full of possibilities.

So we have come with open hearts to hear the voice of God singing through our songs and stories and prayers.

Let us celebrate life in the presence of God.

SILENCE

GATHERING

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

God conceives, within humanity, a promise - a small seed which could grow into the Divine life.

It lies there in a womb of faith and prophetic hope, waiting to be nurtured and celebrated.

It's fragile being may be immersed in hard times, almost overwhelmed with challenges and conflicts and wondering whether there will be any place for it's precious and sacred birthing.

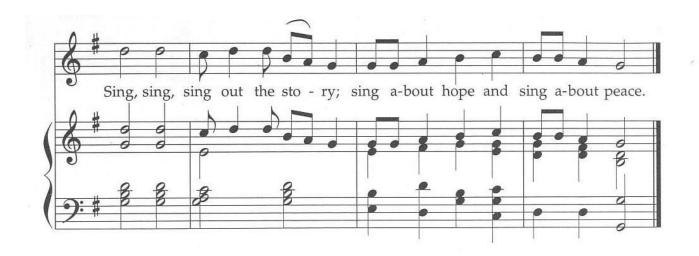
We can be those who prepare for the coming, the miracle of unearned eternal grace.

Carol Our Christmas 30(ii) 'Look toward Christmas'

Words © Shirley Murray, music © Colin Gibson

TUNE: MAKORA STREET





1 Look toward Christmas!
Advent is here:
welcome December,
changing the year.
Whistle up, shepherds!
Saddle up, kings!
Chorus up, angels,
flexing your wings.

Sing, sing, sing alleluia!
Sing, sing alleluia!
Sing, sing out the story,
sing about hope and sing about peace.

2 Set the world singing, make the world glad; now is good reason not to feel sad! Hear John the Baptist shout to prepare: Good News is coming, earth be aware.

Sing, sing, sing alleluia!

3 Mary and Joseph, soon is the day: ready the donkey, start on your way. You are the chosen, willing to trust, joyful your burden, carrying Christ.

Sing, sing, sing alleluia!

Shirley Murray

WELCOME

E te whānau a Te Karaiti, ngā mihi aroha ki a tātou katoa.

Kia ora tātou.

Ou te faatalofa atu i le suafa o Iesu Keriso

Talofa lava, we too greet you in the name of Jesus Christ

A special welcome to those who are visiting us, please join us for morning tea in the hall after church.

OPENING PRAYER

E te whanau, the Spirit of God continues to sing the world into being; bringing to birth miracles of love and unearned grace. The Christ Singer invites us again to join in the song of Earth, for we are God's beloved people.

Thanks be to God.

JESUS' PRAYER

Amen.

Jim Cotter paraphrase

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 the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread 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 for ever.

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW CANDLE

We light the rainbow candle as a sign of our inclusivity and for our children.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

We light this candle signifying peace: our common need, our common wealth.

Peace is our protest against violence; Peace is God's gift.

Come Christ, Peace of our hearts

Enter our lives so that all people may have a place to stand.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Today we light the candle of peace with the prayer that the people of Israel and Palestine will find peace. AMEN

FAMILY TIME Cam Smart

PASSING THE PEACE

Our practice is to pass the peace with or without shaking hands, and say "peace be with you"

THE WORD IN TEXTS Gavin Watson

Hebrew Bible Isaiah 40: 3-11

New Testament Mark 1: 1-8

Contemporary Reading

"Advent: Hope or Delusion"

Thomas Merton 1963 article

The fact remains that our task is to seek and find Christ in our world as it is, and not as it *might* be. The fact that the world is other than it might be does not alter the truth that Christ is present in it and that his plan has been neither frustrated nor changed: indeed, all will be done according to his will. Our Advent is the celebration of this hope. What is uncertain is not the "coming" of Christ but our own reception of him, our own response to him, our own readiness and capacity to "go forth and meet Him."

Advent is not meant to draw our focus away from the world and all that disturbs us about it, from the violence of war in places like Ukraine or the Middle East, to the local instances of discrimination, exclusion or harm. Instead, Advent is a time to remember that God entered this world

uncoerced and willingly, and that Christ's arrival as a vulnerable child is an act of solidarity with all people, but especially with those who are in the most precarious positions in society.

RESPONSE

For the word in scripture, for the word among us, for the word within us, we give thanks.

HYMN

IECS 51 'Now the Greening of the Summer'

Words © Shirley Murray, Tune: HYMN TO JOY (WOV 92)

- 1. Now the greening of the summer tells the turning of the year, for the coming of the Christ Child make the way to Christmas clear! In the trading, in the traffic, in the overload of stress, craft a cradle for compassion, find a place for peacefulness.
- 2. John the Baptist strode before us, prophets shouted in the wild happy those who hear the message, see the hope within the Child: not the packaging of Jesus in the gift wrap of a toy, but the meaning of the manger be our longing, be our joy!
- 3. As St. Andrew told his brother, brought his neighbours and his friends, let the Good News waken gladness as the new-born Word intends; follow on, St. Andrew's people where the winds of faith have blown: in our hearts and in our city be Christ Jesus loved and known.

REFLECTION "Two wrongs don't make a right!"

Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

HYMN 'People are language'

Words: G Stuart Tune: EVENTIDE (WOV 502)

- People are language through whom God can speak; heard by the list'ners, found by those who seek; heard in a whisper, never in a roar, heard in compassion, not through formal law.
- 2. People are language through whom God can care with words of comfort when we see despair; spoken in kindness, yet with certainty; heard with delight when calming misery.
- 3. People are language through whom God can plead for peace and mercy, for the ones in need; spoken in strength, with poise and dignity, calling for justice and for liberty.
 - 4. Sharing of love with acts of gentleness, sharing the load with deeds of thoughtfulness, we can ensure the message can be heard; for we are language of God's living word

OFFERING MUSIC

Come now, Saviour of the nations

by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707)

OFFERING HYMN

'Build a longer table'

Words: © David Bjorlin Tune: NOEL NOUVELET (HFTC 166)

Build a longer table, not a higher wall.
 feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
 Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
 Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of our lives and our world.

We offer these gifts and our lives,

in gratitude for all that has been given to us.

Above all, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, for his turning the tables on power and piety.

May our lives also reflect these commitments.

In your many names, we pray. 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:

If you have a notice to share, please come forward. Thank you.

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

Sonia Groes-Petrie

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of the Czech Republic and the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic. We hold all refugees in our hearts and pray in particular for those who are still detained in Australia. We give thanks for recent progress and pray that their calls for justice might yet be answered with compassion. In New Zealand, we remember those in Parliament, and today we name Hon Damien O'Connor (List) and Greg O'Connor (Ōhāriu). Here in the Central Presbytery we pray for the leaders and people of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, New Plymouth.

PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S

Bless your people, God and renew our life in this place. Refresh us with a spirit of love and respect for all who follow the Jesus Way, for those whose pathways differ from our own, and for care of the Earth and its creatures. Bless the cities in which we live, that they may be places 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

Carol Our Christmas 29 'Light of lights beholden'

Words and Music © Jenny McLeod

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.

Refrain

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 troubled doom.

Refrain

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

Go into this birthing time with a courageous song; joining in God's dream of justice for the whole Earth. And may the blessing of God:
Life-Giver, Love-Maker and Pain Bearer be with you all now and always. Amen.

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Come now, Saviour of the nations

by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

THANK YOU Bruce Cash

our musician today

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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 nember, 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.

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

COMMUNITY BRUNCH THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday is the day of our regular community brunch. Please bring food - festive if you can - to share

FAMILY TIME FOLLOW UP

As suggested by Socrates, some time when you are in discussion with another person on a topic regarding which you disagree..

You might like to take the following approach

- 1. Let truth be the goal "Do I pursue matters toward a truthful conclusion? Is truth the goal?"
- 2. Be willing to change your mind Are you open to changing your mind if it seems the wise and right thing to do?
- 3. Listen failure to listen to the other person can cause many problems in the world.. Can you listen precisely and with interest?
- 4. Ask questions.- Socrates showed a willingness to explore. Real questions are relevant, free of complexity and not loaded with hidden agendas. They can birth hidden knowledge into the world.

Mike Wespel-Rose

LIBRARY NEWS

I feel it is useful that I remind people about the general workings of our congregational library. I wonder if it would be better to call it a book share club.

- 1. To make it manageable we do not keep a catalogue of the books. So we have no particular knowledge of what books we hold.
- 2. We work on an honesty system. We do not check for book returns or chase up non returned books. Book lending is recorded in the issue book and borrowers are expected to cross off a borrowing entry when they return a book.

We therefore suggest that the library is not a suitable place for valuable books. This is how we have always organised the library since its inception a few years ago now..

Thanks to everyone who contributes to the library, and borrows and returns books using our system conscientiously

Mike Wespel-Rose.

WHO OWNS THE HOLY LAND?

We have available 30 copies of Lloyd Geering's 2001 book *Who owns the Holy Land?*, based on his lecture series delivered in that year and published by the St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact the office, either in person or by e-mail (Office@standrews.org.nz). A contribution in the range of \$5-\$10 would be much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS AT ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

Wednesday 13 December at 12:15pm

This coming week's Wednesday lunchtime concert will feature a choral performance by Resonance, directed by Simon Christie and accompanied by Emma Sayers. The concert will include Christmas carols and you are invited to sing along.

Christmas Eve:

Sunday Gathering at 10am

Christmas Carol Service 8pm - please join us for sherry and Christmas cake from 7:30pm. The service, led by the Reverend Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai, also features duets by Pepe Becker and Kate Lineham, accompanied by Dan Poynton.

Christmas Day - Morning service at 10am

RECYCLING OF HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

Household batteries can be dropped off for FREE at Karori Library, Kilbirnie Library, Manners Street Library near Willis (inward bus stop), Island Bay Community Centre, Newlands Community Centre, Tawa Community Centre, and the Southern Landfill Tip Shop.

FINISHED A LOAF OF BREAD OR BOTTLE OF MILK?

Please save the bread bag and the clip (plastic only) and milk bottle tops. The bags are used at the Compassion Soup Kitchen for "takeaway" lunches and the tags and milk bottle tops get recycled. Please fold the bags and pack separately. There is a collection box on the North Vestry table. Thanks—Kath, Trish and Brian.

SUPPORT FOR DCM (DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY MINISTRY)

We are grateful for the many services provided by the DCM since 1969 and one way we can offer our support is to FILL the food baskets at the back of the church each Sunday.

Suggested items: Tinned – soup, fish, baked beans, stews and fruit / pasta and curry sauces / Jam, honey Marmite/Vegemite and peanut butter / porridge, biscuits and muesli bars / instant coffee and tea bags / soap, toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes. (Please no fresh fruit/vegetables) For other ways to support the work of the DCM visit https://www.dcm.org.nz.

FINAL WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERT FOR 2023



WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL – "SHARE FOOD THIS CHRISTMAS"



Somawathie knows what is like to work very hard and watch as her crops are destroyed by hungry elephants or the lack of water or fertiliser. In Sri Lanka, she lives on a small plot of land and is learning new ways of growing enough food at low-cost. Like many small farmers, she can see the effects of the climate disaster. Thanks to our partner Monlar, she has changed her approach to gardening and no longer buys expensive seeds and fertiliser. But she has found her own ways to scare the elephants that walk over her land in search of food. The climate crisis is one more challenge that she faces. This Christmas we are

asking you to support our appeal, Share Food this Christmas.

The CWS Christmas Appeal has been a tradition in New Zealand churches since 1945 when the first Christmas Bowl appeal was launched to raise funds for post-war reconstruction in Greece. Together we have supported millions of people through conflict and disaster. We have helped them improve their lives and livelihoods. Your donations have funded our local partners to strengthen communities in their efforts to end violence and promote human rights and peace. Thank you.

Donations can be made through CWS:

- Online at cws.org.nz/donate
- **By direct deposit** (Name of Account: Christian World Service, ANZ Account number: 06 0817 0318646 00 Email your postal details to cws@cws.org.nz if you would like a tax receipt)
- By Phone with a credit card: 0800 74 73 72
- By Post to: CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140

Envelopes will be available at church from this Sunday.

Remember: all donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible.

CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE GAZA PALESTINE EMERGENCY APPEAL



URGENT NEED FOR HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

On October 7, Hamas launched a major rocket and a series of ground attacks on neighbouring Israel. Israel responded with a series of air strikes and a declaration of war on the densely populated Gaza Strip. Heavy bombardments continue and people living in the north have been instructed by Israel to evacuate. By October 24, 1,400 Israeli citizens have been killed in the conflict. By October 24, 5,791 people had been killed in Gaza, of whom 68% are women and children.

The airstrikes have destroyed schools, healthcare facilities, telecommunication infrastructure and many homes. Israel has retaliated by cutting off water and electricity supplies to Gaza. It has closed all borders and is bombing the southern border region with Egypt. Tensions are increasing in the West Bank and Jerusalem, resulting in further casualties.

The need for a ceasefire is urgent but so is a humanitarian corridor to get vital supplies into Gaza.

Over one million people have been displaced, around half the population. They are in urgent need of food, water, shelter and safety.

Please donate what you can today.

"The people of Gaza are living in harrowing conditions with limited resources, and we cannot stand idly by while they suffer... Our collective efforts can make a significant difference in the lives of those trapped in this nightmarish situation."

DSPR.

OUR RESPONSE

Donations to the Gaza Palestine Emergency Appeal will support our local partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) to meet people's urgent needs.

DSPR is preparing to help many more people with:

- food
- hygiene kits
- shelter
- medications and medical treatment
- psychosocial support

DSPR runs three health clinics: Darraj, Shiijaya and Rafah in Gaza and will work with three hospitals in Jerusalem. The main office in Gaza was badly damaged in the early days of the war and needs to be repaired before it can be used. The homes of staff and Board members have also been bombed, leaving them in urgent need of shelter. ACT Alliance is responding.

CWS was horrified by the attack on the Al Ahli Arab Hospital. Our partner church, the Anglican Missions Board is appealing for this hospital, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Donations can be made through CWS:

- Online and by direct deposit to the Gaza Palestine Emergency Appeal
- By Phone with a credit card: 0800 74 73 72
- By Post to: CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140

RELIEFAID APPEAL FOR GAZA



ReliefAid is on the ground delivering humanitarian aid in Gaza, where families face unprecedented horror.

The situation in Gaza has reached crisis point, the death toll rises daily and families have nowhere to flee. Compounding the distress, Gaza's closed borders have made humanitarian access all but impossible, leaving families lost, abandoned and without the basics needed to survive.

Despite these monumental challenges ReliefAid is **NOW** delivering aid in Gaza.

As we have done in other conflicts, ReliefAid is once again bringing help where it is needed most. Leveraging our established networks on the ground, we have deployed a team within Gaza to deliver life-saving aid directly to families.

We held back from asking for your support until we knew we could get emergency aid on the ground. We have solved this problem, now we need your help to get aid to families who have nowhere to run.

Please stand with us in this critical moment. Your support will have an immediate impact in saving lives and alleviating the suffering of families in Gaza.

Please also share our message of hope with your friends, family and colleagues.

Together we will make a difference. Thank you.

Donations can be made here: www.reliefaid.org.nz/gaza-appeal/

Mike Seawright
Founder and Chief Executive

Cantoris Choir Presents

Oratorio de Noël Camille Saint-Saëns Ceremony of Carols
Benjamin Britten

Featuring Michelle Velvin on the harp

in

Joyeux Voël

Directed by Thomas Nikora and Sam Berkahn

Saturday 16th December St Peter's on Willis 2pm or 8pm

Tickets from humanitix.com, cantoris.net.nz, door sales General \$25, Concession \$15



candle image credit: Lonni Besancon



Christmas Music for Choir & Brass Band with an audience carol sing-along

Saturday 16 December 2pm St. Mary of the Angels Tickets on Eventfinda: \$40/\$75 Schoolchildren free entry





Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council Me Heke Ki Põneke

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	Sandra and Tony Kirby (CG)	
Sound	Sonia Groes-Petrie	
Laptop	Hamish Dick	
Offering	Bridget Martin, Tony Pears	
Coffee/tea	Laura and Melissa Van Echten, Sally Gray,	
	Rosemary Lawrence	
Family Time	Cam Smart	
Readings	Gavin Watson	
Prayers of the People	Sonia Groes-Petrie	
Rainbow Room	In recess	
Library	Closed	
Musician	Bruce Cash	

On duty Sunday 17 December		
Welcoming	Pauline and David Patchett	
Sound	Frank Cook	
Laptop	Cam Smart	
Offering	Lynette Burrell, Paul Franken	
Coffee/tea	Kath Kerr, Marilyn Wallace and Richard Owen	
Family Time	Dawn Cowdry	
Readings	Anna Smith (CG)	
Prayers of the People	Hamish Dick	
Rainbow Room	In recess	
Library	Pauline Patchett	
Musician	Bruce Cash	

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's

Sunday 10 December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai followed by Congregational Brunch and Younger members (Y) group

Wednesday 6 December: 10:30amn - Cuppa and a Chat in the Centre

12:15pm - Lunchtime concert: Resonance Choir - A Carol Celebration

Sunday 17 December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai followed

by Congregational Conversation

STANDARD MONTHLY SUNDAY CYCLE OF ACTIVITIES AFTER SERVICE

1st Sunday Communion service followed by Exploring Faith.

2nd Sunday Congregational Brunch on even months Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec.3rd Sunday Congregational Conversation and Younger members' (Y) group meets after

morning tea/brunch

4th Sunday Social Justice Education Group 5th Sunday if there is one - nothing planned

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	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Parish Council Convenor	Sue Hirst
Treasurer	Paul Barber
Facilities Management Group	Sandra Kirby
Pastoral Care Team	Pat Booth, Brian Burrell, Maxine Cunningham, Katrina Harper
Theologian in Residence	Lloyd Geering
Presbytery Representative	David Douglas
Church Music Coordinator	Vacant
Eco Church Coordinator	Sonia Groes-Petrie
Faith in Action Coordinator	Paul Barber
Rainbow Room Coordinator	Vacant
Roster Coordinator	Pam Fuller
Concert Coordinator	Kristina Zuelicke
Centre Manager	Adelina Reis
Office Administrator	Christine Wilkinson
Facilities Assistant(s)	H. Wilkinson, O. Ruegg, L. Oakley, M. Barber

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

Find us on Facebook

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