

ORDER OF SERVICE

24 DECEMBER 2023

Advent 4 “LOVE”



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

Prelude on "The holly and the ivy"

by Herbert Sumsion (1899 – 1995)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come this Christmas Eve morning in anticipation of something new and exciting about to give birth all around the world. Prepare us for the Christ child yet to be born, still our hearts and minds as we wait in silence.

SILENCE

GATHERING

We gather to announce that love is about to be born.

We hear the ancient word looking forward to this announcement.

We proclaim that light is about to overcome darkness.

Peace and justice shall be possible for all humanity.

The heralding is for us.

We prepare so we can participate in this rebirth of Love.

Our worship together separates the wilderness from the wasteland.

We affirm the hand of God in the movement of life

Let us celebrate life in the presence of God.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

CH4 303 'It came upon the midnight clear'

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

Tune: NOEL

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 o'er 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 o'er all the earth its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

WELCOME

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

Kia ora tātou.

Ou te faatalofa atu i le suaafa o Iesu Keriso

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

A special welcome to those who are visiting us.

OPENING PRAYER

We pray for a world at war whilst we sit comfortably in our homes and watch in horror at the atrocities that are occurring in the Middle East and in the Ukraine. We see poverty and hunger on our streets and at our doorsteps and pray that we may make a difference. We remember those for whom whose Christmas is a time of loss and grief, a time of remembering and hoping for something new to rise out from the ashes. Jesus may you bring love into our lives, a new hope and peace that passes all understanding. Amen

JESUS' PRAYER

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.***

Amen.

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW CANDLE

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

We light this candle signifying love:

our common need,

our common wealth.

Love is our protest against despair; Love is God's gift.

Come Christ, Love of our hearts

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

SUNG RESPONSE

COC 48 'Where is the room?' verse 4

Words ©Shirley Murray Music ©David Dell 1993

4. 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.

FAMILY TIME

Ellen Murray

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

Frank Hanson

Hebrew Bible

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

New Testament

Luke 1:26-38

Contemporary Reading

Haere mai e Hehu

by Joy Cowley from "Come and See"

It was getting near Christmas
and just another working day,
traffic nudging time at the red lights,
legs snipping lengths of a busy pavement,
people too separate to be called a crowd,
a day to be registered and counted
in offices all over the city.

But on this day something happened,
Maybe it was the busker with his accordion,
or the laughing girl outside the coffee shop,
or the homeless man on the corner,
bare to the waist and in lotus position,
face and hands lifted to catch the sun,
or maybe it was the pigeons in a mating dance,
feathers shining like oil on water,
or the way a sudden breeze
made the young pohutukawa trees
shiver with ecstasy.

Something disturbed the solemn face of time.
Something shook the folds of perception,
lifting the veil for a golden moment.
In that instant, the busker's music filled the universe,
and people became pure light and lost their boundaries,
and the warm breeze that ruffled leaves and feathers
was recognised as the breath of eternal Love.

RESPONSE

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

CAROL

COC 52 'You are born in us again'

Words: © Shona Murray; Music: © Mark Wilson

Tune: DUNSTAN

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,
like the warmth of the summer wind you come.
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 the summer rain you come, like the scent of
the summer rain you come.
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, like the light of
the summer sun you come.

REFLECTION

Christmas in a time of crisis

Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

MUSIC

Congregation to remain seated.

"Blowing in the Wind"

sung by Peter Paul and Mary "Laudate Dominum"

OFFERING MUSIC

Chorale Prelude on "In dulci jubilo"

by J.M. Bach (1648 – 1694)

OFFERING HYMN

COC 48 'Where is the room?'

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

Tune: MICHAELA

1. 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?
2. Let Christ have space,
place at the heart of living,
centre for birth's new breathing,
cradle for hope and peace,
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,
room for whoever come.

OFFERING PRAYER

We gather to announce that love is about to be born.
We hear the ancient word looking forward to this announcement.
We proclaim that light is about to overcome darkness.
Peace and justice shall be possible for all humanity.
The heralding is for us.
We prepare so we can participate in this rebirth of Love.
Our worship together separates the wilderness from the wasteland.
We affirm the hand of God in the movement of life
Let us celebrate life in the presence of God.

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

Pat Booth

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of the Djibouti and Eritrea and the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church. 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 Mark Patterson (List) and Tamatha Paul (Wellington Central). Here in the Central Presbytery we pray for the leaders and people of Pacific Islanders' Presbyterian Church, Newtown .

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

AA 159 'Who is the child'

Words: ©1992 Shirley Murray Music: ©1992 Colin Gibson

Tune: LIAM

1. Who is the child that is to be born, who is the child?
Less than a wisp of straw in a stable,
brighter than sun, the light from his candle,
this is the Christ, this is the Christ, this is the Christ.
2. Who is to sing the song of his birth, who is to sing?
All whom the story touches and changes,
hopeful and healed, whom love rearranges,
they know the song, they know the song, they know the song.
3. Who is to dance the dance of his birth, who is to dance?
Limbs that are leased a life into freedom,
hands that will hold the world in a welcome,
they know the dance, they know the dance, they know the dance.
4. Who are to be the bearers of Christ, who are they now?
All who give birth to lively compassion,
carrying peace as dearest possession,
they bear the Christ, they bear the Christ, they bear the Christ.

THE SENDING OUT (*standing*) (Poem by Joy Cowley)

This year, this year, who comes
in form of God's befriending?
What voice to cry for peace?
A child with human face will plead compassion's case,
entreat our conflicts' ending –
Bless this child, O bless this child!

Make way, make way for signs of angel visitation!
What daughter or what son may be the coming One,
new Christ, in love begun, new light of revelation?

Bless this child, O bless this child.

Make room, make room!

The time is near to be awaking,
for in creation's womb the Word has made a home –
the seed for summer bloom within the earth is breaking.

Bless this child, O bless this child.

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus

by G.F. Handel (1685-1750)

THANK YOU

Peter Franklin

our musician today

ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE WELCOMES ALL VISITORS

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.

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

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

ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHRISTMAS AT ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

Christmas Eve:

Christmas Carol Service and Communion 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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If you're looking for some company for lunch on Christmas day you're invited to join Dawn and Pam for a Parish lunch in Conference room 1 at 11am after church. To help with catering please let us know if you're planning on coming and feel free to bring something to share if you wish,
Pam Fuller 475 8240 or pjfuller@gmail.com

WHO OWNS THE HOLY LAND?

We still have available some 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.

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 **and some treats for this Christmas time.** (Please no fresh fruit/vegetables)

For other ways to support the work of the DCM visit <https://www.dcm.org.nz>.

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

CWS 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**

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

CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE GAZA PALESTINE EMERGENCY APPEAL



Christian World Service has launched an **emergency appeal** to assist people who have been affected by the current conflict in the Middle East, particularly Gaza.

“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.

Funds raised will meet some of the urgent needs of people through our long term partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). In Gaza, DSPR is providing shelter, food and support to people who have fled the north and who have lost homes. DSPR is an integral part of the local community. It is preparing to help many more people as soon as it practically can with:

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

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**

NB: CWS is a member of ACT Alliance a coalition of over 140 churches working together on humanitarian, development in over 120 countries.

RELIEFAID APPEAL FOR GAZA



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

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.

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

Together we will make a difference. Thank you.

Mike Seawright

Founder and Chief Executive

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	Pat Booth, Pam Fuller
Sound	Sue Hirst
Laptop	Sue Hirst (CG)
Offering	Bridget Martin, Tony Pears
Coffee/tea	None
Family Time	Ellen Murray
Readings	Frank Hanson
Prayers of the People	Pat Booth
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin

On duty Sunday 24 December – Christmas Eve Carol Service and Communion

Welcoming	Lynette and Brian Burrell
Sound	Ben Gray
Laptop	Cam Smart
Offering	John Harper, Barrie Keenan
Coffee/tea	Sherry and Cake Sandra and Tony Kirby (CG), Janet Horncy
Family Time	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Readings	Marilyn Wallace
Prayers of the People	Lynne Dovey
Communion	Lynne Dovey, Frank Cook, Kath Kerr, Janet Horncy, Janet Martin, Sonia Groes-Petrie
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin

On duty Monday 25 December – Christmas Morning Service

Welcoming	Pam Fuller
Sound	Sue Hirst (CG)
Laptop	Sue Hirst
Offering	Tony Pears, Paul Franken
Coffee/tea	Lunch in Conference Room 1
Family Time	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Readings	Tony Kirby
Prayers of the People	Sandra Kirby
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin

On duty Sunday 31 December	
Welcoming	Pauline and David Patchett
Sound	Sonia Groes-Petrie (CG)
Laptop	Cam Smart
Offering	Barrie and Jenn Keenan
Coffee/tea	Vivienne Mountier, Simon Miller
Family Time	Dawn Cowdry (TBC)
Readings	John Harper
Prayers of the People	Sonia Groes-Petrie
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Judy Dumbleton

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's	
Sunday 24 December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai 8:00pm Christmas Eve Carol Service	
Monday 25 December: 10am Christmas Morning service	
Sunday 31 December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Ian Harris	
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

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Phone (04) 472-9211

office@standrews.org.nz



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