



ORDER OF SERVICE

22nd DECEMBER 2024

ADVENT 4 CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

LOVE IN ACTION

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 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 and Rev. Dr Tim Pratt

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ann Weems

The Christmas spirit is the hope
which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful

And announces in the face of any Herod

the world can produce

and all the inn doors slammed in our faces

and all the dark nights of the soul

That with God all things still are possible

That even now: Unto us a child is born!

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 we name God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'A donkey walks his burden'

Words: ©2018 Susan Jones Music: Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly

1. A donkey walks his burden onward
Telling us that Advent's on the way
Bearing Mary, bearing Jesus,
Under his load, the donkey sways.
We rejoice to see this journey
For it offers hope and joy
We rejoice to hear this story
For it means much more than "It's a Boy"!
2. Worldwide, donkeys bear great burdens
Whether in Israel or Haiti
Bearing people, bearing cargo
working all the day on tired feet.
They are transport for the poor
Always being asked for more.
They are key to family business
They are animals worth giving for.
3. Mary and her stalwart Joseph
Ride the road to Bethlehem
They are trusting in the story
which was shocking news to them.
They are travelling, so we're told, to
Joseph's family's ancient place
They are trusting in the future
What are all the dangers they will face?
4. When the baby Jesus grew
He taught compassion was the way
He believed we should give water,
feed the hungry, love each day,
Dignity is paramount
For humankind and donkeys too
Every advent, let's all shout out
To all those who carry burdens new.

WELCOME

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

Kia ora tātou.

Ou te faatalofa atu i le Suafoa 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

Source of Life - who called the rich to travel toward poverty,
the powerful to know their own frailty;
who gave to strangers a sense of homecoming in an alien land
and to stargazers true light and vision as they bowed to earth –

We lay ourselves open to your signs for us.

Stir us with holy discontent
over a world which gives its gifts to those
who have plenty already,
whose talents are obvious,
whose power is recognized;

***And help us both to share our resources
with those who have little,
and to receive with humility
the gifts they bring to us.***

(Silence)

Rise within us, like a star,
***and make us restless
till we journey forth to seek our rest in you.***

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 the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done

Jim Cotter Paraphrase

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 this candle to show that we are an inclusive community and for our children.

LIGHTING THE 4TH ADVENT CANDLE "LOVE"

The first Sunday we lit the Candle of Hope
The second Sunday we lit the **Candle of Peace**
The third Sunday we lit the **Candle of Joy**
Today we light the **Candle of Love**
the candle is lit

We say together:

As we light the fourth candle our hearts are full of anticipation. Our vigil, our waiting, is almost over and its silence is full with the promise of love. Love born of Mary, be born in our lives too, be cradled in our work of justice, grow to fullness in our lives and in our choices.

FAMILY TIME

Cam Smart

BLESSING THE CHILDREN (All stand)

We send you to the Rainbow Room programme to hear stories, ask questions and have fun together.
We bless you. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

Feel free to pass the peace with those nearby or move to greet others further away. Passing the peace consists of shaking hands and saying "Peace be with you." The response is "Peace be with you" or just "And with you." Or, simply saying "Hello" is a good idea. Also feel free to simply observe if you wish!

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Gillian Feist

Hebrew Bible

Micah 5:2-5a

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45; 46-55

Contemporary reading

'Virgin Birth'

By Joy Cowley

We have within us a virgin place,
A holy space which belongs to God alone.
We know it by its hunger,
We name it by its need,
The space which will not be touched
By the people we love
Or the things we gather
Or the positions we hold.

We have within us a growing place,
An eternal space that exists for Truth,
Where the love of God overcomes us,
Where the life of God fills us,
The Emmanuel space where we conceive
And become pregnant of the Holy One
And day by day, give birth,
To Christ in the world.

RESPONSE

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

Refrain:

*Open, open, open, the stable door,
welcome, welcome, welcome, the baby's born,
enter, enter, join in the celebration, fear not, here is room for us all.*

1. There's a flock of sheep and a cow and a donkey, welcome, welcome.
Here's a puffing shepherd, three wise men wonky, welcome, welcome.

Refrain:

*Open, open, open, the stable door,
welcome, welcome, welcome, the baby's born,
enter, enter, join in the celebration, fear not, here is room for us all.*

2. What a crowd of folk come to see the baby, welcome, welcome.
One of them is drunk and another's crazy, welcome, welcome.

Refrain:

*Open, open, open, the stable door,
welcome, welcome, welcome, the baby's born,
enter, enter, join in the celebration, fear not, here is room for us all.*

3. Can't afford a coat and the kids are crying, welcome, welcome.
Haven't found a friend yet, but I'm still trying, welcome, welcome.

Refrain:

*Open, open, open, the stable door,
welcome, welcome, welcome, the baby's born,
enter, enter, join in the celebration, fear not, here is room for us all.*

REFLECTION

"LOVE IN ACTION"

Rev. Dr Tim Pratt

REFLECTIVE MUSIC: 'Both sides now' by Joni Mitchell

Mike Wespel Rose

HYMN

'Where is the room?'

Carol our Christmas 48

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

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 of 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.
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.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERING HYMN

AA 127 'Take my gifts' verse 1

Words: © Shirley Murray Music: © Colin Gibson

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE

1. Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.
Now, because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

OFFERING PRAYER

As we bring these offerings of money and food, may we share the gifts of peace, reconciliation and goodwill.

***May these gifts feed those who hunger for daily bread and justice,
and support this faith community as we work for justice and peace.***

Amen.

Bronwyn Angela White

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

People share notices. 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. Thank you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Anna Smith

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of Myanmar. We pray for the Myanmar Council of Churches in Myanmar, and throughout the world. We hold all refugees in our hearts and pray in particular for those who are still detained in Australia. We give thanks that we in New Zealand are able to welcome some from this group. We pray that more will have the opportunity to be resettled in the near future. In New Zealand, we remember those in Parliament, and today we name Stuart Smith (Kaikōura) and Lydia Lemauga Sosene (Māngere). Here in the Central Presbytery we pray for the leaders and people of Hawera Presbyterian Church.

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***

CLOSING HYMN

WOV 227 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

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

2. 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.

VOW TO SERVICE

For those who look for love, but are abused,

For those who have lost family and friends,

For those who live where there is strife or war,

We have lit the candle of love.

We go out now to serve Love in the world

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU

to our musician today

Bruce Corkill

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

WHAT A LOVELY TREE

Big thanks to our Centre Manager Adelina, for doing such a lovely job of decorating our Christmas tree.

DISABILITY ACCESS PROJECT: A SERIES OF CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES TO RAISE FUNDS

We are planning a series of special concerts and performances throughout next year to assist the fundraising effort for the disability access project. Please note the following 2025 dates on your calendars and in your diaries: 2 March: Concert featuring pianist and violinist Joshua and Oscar Han from Australia (sponsored by Jack C Richards. 11 May: Concert featuring pianist Quang Hong Luu (sponsored by Jack C Richards) 26 July: We Dance Group - a well-known Wellington disability dance troupe led by Sumara Fraser. We'll be looking for assistance with these events and further ideas for fundraising. Please get in touch with Lynne Dovey or Sue Hirst if you can help.

SUPPORT FOR DCM – CHRISTMAS SUPPLIES

As we are coming up to Christmas, any Christmas type goodies would be greatly appreciated for DCM. 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 in 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>.

RECYCLING AT ST ANDREW'S

We are expanding the range of materials that we collect for recycling at St Andrew's. You can now bring plastic lids (including milk bottle caps), metal lids, beverage cartons (Tetra Pak) and used pens. There are containers for each sort of material in the North Vestry. A take-home information sheet, on the desk in the North Vestry, tells you all you need to know about what we do and don't collect. For Hutt Valley and other members, Bunnings' stores have recycling bins where used batteries can be left. Happy recycling!

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

GIVE CLIMATE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

If you are keen to cut the climate impact of your Christmas, there's more you can do than limit consumption and avoid plastic this year. In 2024, the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal is calling for support to help Pacific Island Christians build climate resilience for families whose livelihoods and food security are threatened by climate change. Your donation to the 2024 [CWS Christmas Appeal](#) will help a Tongan food security organisation to replant village gardens up and out of harm's way for families whose traditional food growing plots are threatened by rising seas. Christian World Service also supports communities suffering from climate crisis impacts around the world through its [Gifted](#) catalogue, which allows climate-aware donors in Aotearoa to buy development and aid gifts for family members, such as a \$70 [Rainwater tank](#) for a community in sub-Saharan Africa, a \$100 [Climate Hope](#) grant for Pacific Christian climate activists, a \$45 [Fruit tree](#) for the Philippines or \$45 [Bees](#) for Sri Lanka. Make your Christmas spending work for the planet this year! Support Christian World Service and its climate resilience partners.

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. Nearly 85% of the population – 1.9 million people have been displaced in Gaza. They are in urgent need of food, water, shelter and safety. “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. **Donations can be made through CWS.**

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	Pam Fuller + TBC
Sound	Sue Hirst
Laptop	Hamish Dick
Offering	Paul Franken and Katrina Harper
Coffee/tea	Kath Kerr, Marilyn Wallace and David Douglas
Family Time	Cam Smart
Readings	Gillian Feist
Prayers of the People	Anna Smith
Rainbow Room	Caroline Korybut
Library	Closed
Musician	Bruce Corkill
Service Leader	Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai and Rev. Dr Tim Pratt

On duty December 24th (Christmas Eve Service)

Welcoming	Lynette and Brian Burrell
Sound	Sue Hirst
Laptop	Sue Hirst
Offering	Kath Kerr and Paul Franken
Sherry & Cake	Jim and Maxine Cunningham, Vivienne Mountier, Janet Horncy
Family Time	Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Readings	Anna Smith
Prayers of the People	Pat Booth
Communion	Rosemary Lawrence, Katrina Harper, Paul Barber, + 3 more
Rainbow Room	Caroline Korybut
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's

Sunday 22nd December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai and Rev Dr. Tim Pratt.

Tuesday 24th December: 8pm Christmas Eve Service led by Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai.

Wednesday 25th December: 10am Christmas Day Service led by Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai.

STANDARD MONTHLY SUNDAY CYCLE OF ACTIVITIES AFTER SERVICE

1st Sunday	Communion service followed by Community Brunch on even months Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec.
2nd Sunday	Congregational service followed by Exploring Faith
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	Caroline Korybut
Roster Coordinator	Pam Fuller
Concert Coordinator	Kristina Zuelicke
Centre Manager	Adelina Reis
Office Administrator	Jemma Ballantyne
Centre Assistant	Germaine Ambray
Facilities Assistant(s)	R. MacConghie, O. Ruegg, M. Barber, L. Oakley, F. Neeley-Grant

St Andrew's on The Terrace

www.standrews.org.nz

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