



ORDER OF SERVICE

14TH DECEMBER 2025

ADVENT 3 JOY



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

PRELUDE

Fling wide the gates of welcome!

Johann Nepomuk David (1932)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joy is the whisper that says, "Do not be afraid."

Joy is the courage to hope when hope feels thin.

Joy is the presence of God in the everyday moments of our lives.

We gather as a people of promise,

trusting that Love is on the way.

Come, let us worship,

for the light is growing,

and joy is being born among us once again.

SILENCE

GATHERING

As we enter this sacred space,

come and gather—

bring your week's burdens,

your quiet hopes,

your longing for light.

So come,

all who are weary,

all who are searching,

all who are grateful,

all who are unsure.

Come as you are.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

AA 26 'Come to our land'

Words: © Shirley Murray Music: © Colin Gibson Tune: HAEREMAI

1. Come to our land, come to our hearts
Spirit of peace, Spirit of truth,
bring in the spring, the hope and the green,
Spirit of growth and Spirit of youth.

Refrain:

*And all our people will sing together:
Wairua Tapu, holy your name,
there's one great Spirit in all creation,
one great Spirit of God!*

2. Come to our land, come to our hearts
Spirit of life, breath of new birth,
teach us to care for water and air,
nourish the seed and cherish the earth,

Refrain....

3. Come to our land, come to our hearts
Spirit of bush, Spirit of bird,
speak to the soul of Aotearoa
joy in your world and joy in your Word,

Refrain....

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Reader 1: Creator God, today we light the third candle of Advent. We kindle it with Joy. The prophet Isaiah wrote that the desert and the parched land will rejoice.

The ransomed of God will return and there will be singing and gladness.

May we all give water and give life in your name this Advent.

OPENING PRAYER

God of deep and surprising joy,
we gather this morning with gratitude
for the light you kindle within us and among us.

In this Advent season

When the world feels hurried and heavy,
remind us that joy is not a luxury—
it is your gift, your grace, your invitation to breathe again.

Bless our gathering:

our prayers, our singing, our silence,
our longings and our questions.

May we feel your presence in this community,
and may your joy strengthen us for the journey ahead. **Amen.**

JESUS' PRAYER

© Rev Sherri Weinberg

God - heart of the world:

revealed through every aspect of creation:

understood through our awareness.

***May we honour the holiness of creation and act accordingly
so that your love is reflected in the way we live.***

***May we always be thankful for the food we eat
and the friends we have.***

***May we forgive those who transgress against us
and be forgiven for our wrong doings.***

***In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat
and not be compromised by hesitation.***

***Through our freedom, may your justice
be seen and heard and experienced
forever and ever.***

Amen.

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW CANDLE

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

FAMILY TIME

Cam Smart

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

Now you go to the Rainbow Room to hear stories, to ask questions and have fun together. ***We bless you. Amen***

PASSING THE PEACE (Te Rangimarie)

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

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Gavin Watson

Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 7: 1-17

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Contemporary Reading 1

**"Jesus the Son of Man" Pages 204-205
By Kahlil Gibran**

PILATE'S WIFE TO A ROMAN LADY

I was walking with my maidens in the groves outside of Jerusalem when I saw Him with a few men and women sitting about Him; and He was speaking to them in a language which I only half understood.

But one needs not a language to perceive a pillar of light or a mountain of crystal. The heart knows what the tongue may never utter and the ears may never hear.

He was speaking to His friends of love and strength. I know He spoke of love because there was melody in His voice; and I know He spoke of strength because there were armies in His gestures. And He was tender, though even my husband could not have spoken with such authority.

When He saw me passing by He stopped speaking for a moment and looked kindly upon me. And I was humbled; and in my soul I knew I had passed by a god.

After that day His image visited my privacy when I would not be visited by man or woman; and His eyes searched my soul when my own eyes were closed. And His voice governs the stillness of my nights.

I am held fast forevermore; and there is peace in my pain, and freedom in my tears.

Belovèd friend, you have never seen that man, and you will never see Him. He is gone beyond our senses, but of all men He is now the nearest to me.

Contemporary Reading 2

From Lloyd Geerings "Prophet or Heretic"? by Jim Veitch

'Space needs to be made for different views to exist side-by-side as the western church seeks to explain itself to new generations without insisting on bodily resurrection and life after death as the non-negotiable basis of faith or claiming itself to be the only religion that matters in the world.

As we seek to understand what it means to be genuinely human in a world very different from anything known to humans of the past, the Jesus of history - the Jesus who championed, in the name of his Judean God the cause of a non-violent and compassion life that treats as its foundation, everyone equally, irrespective of colour, creed or gender and justly, comes into a fresh redeeming light. Much now hinges on the latter being the case.

RESPONSE

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

HYMN

AA143 'Touch the earth lightly'

Words © Shirley Murray Music © Colin Gibson

1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
2. We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.
4. God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

REFLECTION

'New Thinking, New Understanding'

Rev Barrie Keenan

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

Night gives way to Light of day,

Fughetta on a verse of the ancient (4th century) Advent hymn "Veni Redemptor Gentium"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

HYMN

AA 59 'He came singing love'

Words and Music: © Colin Gibson Tune: SINGING LOVE

1. He came singing love
and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.
He arose in silence.
For the love to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers.

2. He came singing faith
and he lived singing faith
he died singing faith.
He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers.

3. He came singing hope
and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope.
He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers.

4. He came singing peace
and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace.
He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on
we must make it our song:
you and I be the singers.

OFFERING MUSIC

**Night gives way to Light of day, Chorale Prelude
on a verse of Veni Redemptor
Johann Sebastian Bach**

OFFERING HYMN

Words: Robert Murry (adapt)
Tune: STUTTGART WOV 200

Grant us God the grace of giving
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer thankfully.

OFFERING PRAYER

Spirit of life, we give these gifts of food and money out of thankfulness for the abundance we have in our lives. Help us to recognise our place in the sacred web of life. Refresh and sustain us as we recommit to loving the world through our daily lives.

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

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 Zambia and we pray for the Christian Council of Zambia We hold all refugees in our hearts - those who have fled their homes because of natural disaster, oppression, violence or war. We give thanks that we in Aotearoa New Zealand are able to offer a small number of refugees the opportunity to resettle in our country. We pray for the leaders and people of other faith communities around the motu. We remember those in Parliament and today we name Tamatha Paul (Wellington Central) and Hon Chris Penk (Kaipara ki Mahurangi). Here in the Central Presbytery, we pray for the leaders and people of the Hunterville - St Andrew's 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

FFS 57 'Song of faith that sings forever'

Words © Shirley Murray Music © Colin Gibson.

1. Song of faith that sings forever
through God's people, ages long,
word that holds the world together
when our hearts take up the song,
always, always, somewhere sounding,
though the source we do not see,
counterpoint to all despairing,
it is hope that sets the key.

2. Song of faith in exaltation,
rising through the vaults of prayer,
tune of simple celebration
offered up in open air,
song in chapel and cathedral,
descant to our daily tone,
song from sickbed or in prison,
faith must often sing alone.

3. And when life would overwhelm us,
when there seems no song to sing,
hear the constant voice of courage
out of fear and suffering:
all who've loved and trusted Jesus,
all who lift us to be strong,
endless, endless are the voices
of the faith that makes the song.

BLESSING

May the God who calls us into hopeful waiting
bless you with quiet strength for the days ahead.
May the Christ whose coming we prepare to receive
fill your hearts with deep and abiding joy.
May the Spirit who moves among us like a guiding light
grant you wisdom, courage, and peace. **Amen**

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

**Night gives way to Light of day,
Chorale Prelude à la Toccata, BWV 661
Johann Sebastian Bach**

THANK YOU

to our musician today
Bruce Cash

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

Unless otherwise stated all hymns are used by permission CCLI Licence 341550 or reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #. A-623996. All rights reserved.

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

ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING TEA OR LUNCH

From time to time we have alternated between offering a special morning tea or lunch to those attending the Christmas day service. If you are planning to attend this service and would like to stay on for morning tea or lunch would you please let Pam Fuller know your preference? Email: Pjfiller@gmail.com

LLOYD GEERING'S BOOK - DECEMBER 14TH

Lloyd Geering Prophet or Heretic?

***The story behind New Zealand's great heresy trial* by Rev. Dr Jim Veitch**

On Sunday 14 December we have the opportunity at St Andrew's on The Terrace to hear about Jim Veitch's recently published book, *Lloyd Geering, Prophet or Heretic: The story behind New Zealand's great heresy trial*.

The usual service will take place at 10 am, during which Lloyd's contribution to church and society will be honoured, including his time as Honorary Associate Minister and Theologian-in-Residence at St Andrew's, his contribution to the Wellington community through his lectures, and his contribution nationally and internationally through his publications and speaking tours. Jim's book tells the story of the heresy trial and the 1970 dissociation in a way that it has not previously been told. It reflects on Lloyd's contribution to church, society and theological scholarship both nationally and internationally while telling the stories of the heresy trial and dissociation in unprecedented detail based on rigorous research and scholarship. It sets both trial and dissociation in the context of Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally and considers the impact Lloyd's thinking and the 1970 decision has had on the Presbyterian Church in Aotearoa New Zealand to this day. After the service we will gather in the hall for tea or coffee as usual, before Rev. Dr Niki Francis, Aotearoa New Zealand editor of the book, will share her detailed knowledge of the book after which there will be the opportunity for discussion on issues which Jim has set out in the book. Copies will be available for cash sales at the price of \$70. It can also be ordered in advance online: <https://booksonline.co.nz/product/lloyd-geering-prophet-or-heretic/> For further information please contact Barrie Keenan on 027 285 7275 or barrie@keen.co.nz

FUNDRAISING CONCERT 8TH FEBRUARY 2026, 3PM - SAVE THE DATE!

Joshua Han returns to St Andrews on The Terrace. Sunday 8th February 2026, 3pm. Winner of the Australian National Piano Award 2024. "Complete mastery of his instrument" – Sydney Arts Guide. Tickets \$30 waged, \$25 unwaged, \$10 students. Book at [Humanitix.co.nz](https://humanitix.co.nz). Door sales available. Sponsored by Jack C Richards.

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

With two weeks to go till Christmas, here are some ideas for making Christmas Day a sustainable one. For the perfect gift, think about giving experiences rather than things, e.g. cinema vouchers or tickets to a concert or exhibition.

Secondhand finds and DIY gifts, using natural or upcycled items like pinecones, fabric and old jars, are fun to receive and often come with more thought and care than something plucked off the shelf. If you are buying new, shop local and support independent retailers. Plants and trees are the gift that keeps on giving long after Christmas is over. One option is to send an e-card through Trees That Count (<https://tinyurl.com/mtejwbas>). This will fund native trees for planting in restoration projects across Aotearoa New Zealand. When it comes to wrapping gifts, think about what you already have that you could use instead of shiny paper. For example, plain brown paper decorated with eco-friendly stamps, hand-drawn motifs or homemade stencils; upcycled magazines pages, maps, kids' art or sheet music - choose something that fits the person; fabric, like scarves, napkins, tea towels, old linen or clothing. All of these options can become part of the gift itself. Finally, swap synthetic bows and ribbons for paper tape and biodegradable twine. Have a Happy Sustainable Christmas. - Anna Smith, Sustainability Group

RECYCLING AT ST ANDREW'S

Congratulations! November was a bumper month for recycling, partly because it had an extra fifth Sunday. We collected 8.8kg of used materials. Tetra Paks and plastic and metal tops accounted for the bulk of recyclables. Thank you for washing everything before you drop it off. It makes the sorting much more pleasant! If you're clearing out a shed or garage over the holidays we can collect a wide range of metal objects ranging from old tools, taps and saucepans through to blunt scissors, nuts and bolts, and metal drink bottles. Remember, too, to bring in any brand of empty (clean) hair care containers - bottles, tubs and aerosols are all accepted. And if you haven't got a copy of the latest version of all the things you can recycle at St Andrew's, pick one up from the desk in the North Vestry. - Anna Smith, Sustainability Group

RECYCLING OF HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

Household batteries can be dropped off for FREE in Wellington at Karori Library, Kilbirnie Library, Te Awe Library (Brandon St), Island Bay Community Centre, Newlands Community Centre, Tawa Community Centre, and the Southern Landfill Tip Shop. There are also now three battery recycling points in Hutt City: War Memorial Library, Eastbourne Neighbourhood Hub and Naenae Neighbourhood Hub

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

WELLINGTON CHAPEL CHRISTMAS SHOW - DECEMBER 14TH 6PM

Seasons Greetings! We at the Wellington Chapel are putting on a wee Christmas show next month before the holidays, and wanted to invite you and anyone in your congregation who may be interested to come along and enjoy. Any and all are welcome, and will have a light supper for everyone after the show. The date and time of our concert is - **The 14th of December at 6pm, at 45 Cambridge Terrace!** We will be playing an assortment of Christmas carols, sing-along classics, and a couple of fun surprises! Please come along with friends, families, and lots of Christmas joy and warmth. Don't forget to RSVP to this email to let us know if you and yours can make it. We can't wait to share our last show of the year with you! All the best, The Wellington Chapel Team.

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 in 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	Pauline and David Patchett
Sound	Sue Hirst
Laptop	Sandra Kirby
Offering	Paul Franken and Katrina Harper
Coffee/tea	Vivienne Mountier, Tony Kirby and Jenni Bryant
Family Time	Cam Smart
Readings	Gavin Watson
Prayers of the People	Anna Smith
Rainbow Room	Caroline Korybut
Library	Pauline Patchett
Musician	Bruce Cash
Service Leader	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

On duty December 21st

Welcoming	Sandra and Tony Kirby
Sound	Frank Cook
Laptop	Hamish Dick
Offering	Jenn Keenan and Bridget Martin
Coffee/tea	Aaron Cook, Sally Gray and Katrina Harper
Family Time	Rosemary Lawrence
Readings	Marilyn Wallace
Prayers of the People	Pat Booth
Rainbow Room	Caroline Korybut
Library	Pauline Patchett
Musician	Judy Dumbleton
Service Leaders	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's

Sunday December 14th: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai followed by Exploring Faith.

Sunday December 21st: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai followed by Congregational Conversation and Younger members' (Y) group after morning tea/brunch.

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

Sunday December 25th: 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
2nd Sunday	Congregational service followed by Exploring Faith
3rd Sunday	Congregational Conversation and Younger members' (Y) group 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	Maxine Cunningham, Pat Booth, Brian Burrell, Katrina Harper, Tony Kirby, Vivienne Mountier and Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Theologian in Residence	Lloyd Geering
Presbytery Representative	Vacant
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	Sara Rokni
Facilities Assistant(s)	Fynn Neeley-Grant, Isabella Oakley, Cooper Neeley-Grant, Oliver Hope

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



Minister : Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

Office: (04) 472-9376, Cell: 021-836 060

minister@standrews.org.nz

