

ORDER OF SERVICE

21ST DECEMBER 2025

ADVENT 4



SOMEONE ELSE'S SON

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 Ross Scott

PRELUDE

Schlafe, mein Liebster from the Christmas Oratorio
(J S Bach (1685-1750) arr Grace)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come Jesus, come you who welcomes all, from all the world

Come Jesus. Come to greet us now, we come as we are, from every branch of humanity, That the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

SILENCE

GATHERING

We often sing "come thou long expected Jesus"

But Mary and Joseph were not expecting a child.

We all live with expectations, and we face the unexpected.

In our faith we carry Jesus each day to the people we meet,

On our path of life we encounter Jesus day by day in the people who meet us.

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live;
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive,
built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome in this place,
all are welcome in this place,
all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

Refrain....

3. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face.
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Refrain....

4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim

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 LOVE

Reader 1: Creator God, today we light the fourth candle of Advent. We kindle it with peace. The birth of the Prince of Peace was proclaimed by the message of an angel. Mary and Joseph were told that their son would be called Emmanuel which means God with us.

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

Intro to OPENING PRAYER

In life we encounter love in many ways.

Sometimes we are receiving Love

sometimes we have the privilege to show love.

Sometimes it comes easy and spontaneously

sometimes it is a challenge, a struggle to give or accept.

As I read from Luke, the words that Jesus used to state the nature of his ministry, I invite you to reflect on these acts of love and how you have witnessed them.

OPENING PRAYER

Luke 4:18-19. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to release the oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's Favour

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.

FAMILY TIME

Rosemary Lawrence

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

Bruce Corkill

Hebrew Bible

Micah 5:2-5a

New Testament

Matthew 1:18-25

Contemporary conversation:

I asked a young engaged man what he would do if his 'wife to be' was to inform him she was pregnant and the child was not his.

He said 'this is not the right answer but the truth is: I would walk away'.

RESPONSE

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

HYMN

COC 14 (ii) 'Come now, Lord Jesus'

Words: © 1992 Shirley Murray Music: Traditional Zulu arr. Roy Tankersley

1. Come now, Lord Jesus,
enter our Christmas,
be to us no stranger
in this new made manger.
2. Come, small and human,
born of a woman,
yet a child much greater,
of our own Creator.
3. Come, cold and crying
comfort denying,
no place to receive you,
few yet to believe you.
4. Come, poor and simple,
our flesh your temple,
in your body feeling
hurt as well as healing.
5. Come, gift and token,
bread to be broken —
star and sign still point you,
myrrh will anoint you.

REFLECTION Love that comes easy, love that is hard

Rev Ross Scott

REFLECTIVE MUSIC 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence' (Picardy, arr Mark Hayes)

The kingdom of love is coming because:

***ALL: somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind,
somewhere someone shares with another in need,
somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate,
somewhere someone is patient - and waits in love,
somewhere someone returns good for evil,
somewhere someone serves another, in love,
somewhere someone is calm in a storm,
somewhere someone is loving everybody.***

Is that someone you?

HYMN

HYMN Tune: 'Amazing Grace', 86.86)

Amazing Love that Jesus told,
Two thousand years ago,
A story new, a story old,
A love we all can know.

He spoke to crowds in Palestine,
He speaks to us today,
He tells us all of love divine,
To us he shows the way.

The realm of God is one of love,
Of justice and of peace.
It's not about a realm above -
Through love this world release.

Amazing love that Jesus told,
Two thousand years ago,
A story new, a story old,
A love for all to know.

Margaret Rolfe

OFFERING HYMN

AA 62 “Here we bring small or great”

Words: © Shirley Erena Murray Music: © Colin Gibson

1. Here we bring, small or great,
gifts to offer on this plate,
what we’ve earned, what we own,
tithe or token, bread or stone.

*Jesus said “have a care - your heart will always be
where your riches are, where your riches are.”*

OFFERING PRAYER

***All that we are, and all that we have, and all that we may become,
comes from this planet, from God
For we are made from its dust.
So we bring these offerings and ourselves
To bring restoration to our relationships:
With ourselves.
With each other
And with all of creation
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.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of Afghanistan and we pray for all those working towards peace in Afghanistan. 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 Rt Hon Winston Peters (List) and Lan Pham (List). Here in the Central Presbytery, we pray for the leaders and people of the Inglewood United Church (Pres-Meth).

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.*

1. Who is this man who gave to women dignity
in partnership of worth and equal grace?
Who listened to the stories that they told him,
and honoured each, whatever was their place:
who let them choose to come and join his company
and learned with them God's love of every race,
who showed to each the courage of their nature
to care and tend each lonely and each suffering face.
2. Who is this man, who spoke to men of gentleness
and showed them all the children at his side:
who taught of love and justice for all people,
and took a towel and washed away their pride?
In him they saw the strength of truth and mercy,
and how he trusted God to be his guide,
knew how he led them through misunderstanding,
and then forgave them when they ran away to hide.
3. Who is this man who gathered people to him
and touched their lives along each dusty way,
who spoke to all with passion and with peacefulness
and valued all their ordinary days.
Who is this man, who at the day's long ending,
would draw apart to wait on God and pray?
Who in the mystery that knows no ending,
would find God's wisdom
and would know God's words to say?
4. Who is this man who calls us now to follow,
a shadow presence asking us to be
companions on the way through this life journey,
to live in truth, to set our tired world free?
So, let us find each other now in partnership,
with ears to hear and eyes awake to see,
that we might grow in grace and understanding,
and walk beside that man who comes from Galilee.

BLESSING

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

***Mendelssohn* (Hark the herald angels sing)
(David Willcocks (1919-2015))**

THANK YOU

to our musician today
Judy Dumbleton

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

EXTRA CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST ANDREW'S

In the coming week we will have extra services for Christmas:

Christmas Eve Service - 7:30pm for sherry (or juice) and cake (gluten free available), followed by a Christmas Carol service at 8pm, during which we will again be treated to the wonderful singing of Pepe Becker and Kate Lineham accompanied by Calvin Scott.

Christmas Day service at 10am.

Back to regular weekly services on 28 December.

FOR CHRISTMAS CRAWL

Has anyone got a CD of "Carol our Christmas" which also has lots of other NZ carols? We would like to be able to play it while we welcome folk between 11 and 3 on Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th

Contact Pat Booth 027 476 0427

CHRISTMAS CRAWL SET-UP THIS SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2025

After church this Sunday, we would like some people to help set up the back of the church for the start of Christmas Crawl the next day (Monday 22nd December). We need the following items to be moved there:

- a table from the hall
- a whiteboard from the storeroom
- the urn from the kitchen filled with water (to the porch)

This will make it much easier to set up with the other supplies when the Christmas Crawl starts at 11.00am on Monday 22nd December.

Thank you for your help. Janet Horncy and Janet Martin

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

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

10th December was World Human Rights Day – a day very much associated with Amnesty International. I have just displayed new posters and case details for six current Amnesty cases. These are on the display board at the back of the church, to the right of the main door (if you are facing towards The Terrace!). They include information about each case – and ways you can usefully contribute

support. I will write a couple of letters in the next week. If you are interested in supporting any of these people or groups who have suffered serious injustice, can I suggest you might use your phone to take a picture of the details from the board and then write and send your letter. Amnesty is a lamp in the darkness. We need to keep it alight. With thanks, Mike Wespel-Rose.

CWS CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025 - GIVE WATER, GIVE LIFE

"But let justice roll on like a river" Amos 5:24

This Christmas, we return to an unmet need that we can easily take for granted in New Zealand: healthy water. In every situation in which our partners are working, the provision of healthy water is the starting point to helping people out of extreme poverty. In New Zealand we fill a drinking bottle from a tap before we head off to work or play with such ease because the infrastructure to allow us to do so exists and works. For over two billion people this is not the case. On a recent visit to our partner in Uganda, Director Tim Pratt saw this for himself. How what we might consider to be a simple rainwater tank could launch a family and community into a much healthier and more prosperous future. Your gift is a wonderful way to stand with vulnerable people to give water, give life. On behalf of those who will put your gift to work lifting the lives of many otherwise caught in extreme poverty and deprived of healthy water, thank you. Donate at: <https://cws.org.nz/newsroom/christmas-appeal/>

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. Door sales available. Sponsored by Jack C Richards.

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

With less than a week 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 or homemade stencils; upcycled magazine pages, maps, kids' art or sheet music - choose something that fits the person; fabric like scarves, napkins, tea towels, old linen or old clothing. All of these options 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

SUPPORT 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>.

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NOTICES

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	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	Bruce Corkill
Prayers of the People	Pat Booth
Rainbow Room	Caroline Korybut
Library	Closed
Musician	Judy Dumbleton
Service Leader	Rev Ross Scott

On duty December 24th (Christmas Eve Service)

Welcoming	Lynette and Brian Burrell
Sound	Ben Gray
Laptop	Ben Gray
Offering	Kath Kerr and TBC
Coffee/tea	Maxine and Jim Cunningham
Family Time	Frank Cook
Readings	Pat Booth
Prayers of the People	Lynne Dovey
Communion	Rosemary Lawrence, Janet Martin, Janet Horncy, Ellen Murray, Pam Fuller and Cam Smart
Rainbow Room	Closed
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin
Service Leaders	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's

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

Sunday December 28th: 10am Sunday Gathering 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

