



# ORDER OF SERVICE

## 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

### CHRISTMAS DAY 2025



## 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

**"In dulci jubilo" BWV 729 by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day we have been waiting for.

Light has come into the world.

***We come with wonder, with gratitude, and with hope.***

In the midst of ordinary lives,

love has taken flesh and dwelt among us.

***We open our hearts to the mystery of God-with-us.***

Come, you who are joyful.

Come, you who are weary.

Come, you who carry both delight and longing.

We gather to welcome the child of hope,

the promise of peace,

the gift of new beginnings.

### SILENCE

### GATHERING

We have waited with hope

***for God to bring justice and righteousness.***

We have waited with peace

***for God's shalom to be felt.***

We have waited with joy,

***celebrating the things God has already done.***

We have waited with love,

***awed by how God's love has been shown to us.***

Joy to the world, come let us worship God.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## WOV 224 'Joy to the World'

Words: Isaac Watts (alt) Music G F Handel Tune: ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world! A new age dawns,  
it comes shalom to bring.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! Let justice come,  
to all who need release;  
for prisoners held in chains,  
the damaged and the strained,  
let them find freedom now,  
let them find freedom now,  
let them, let them find freedom now.
3. Graceful and true, the Saviour brings  
compassion all may share;  
for poor and homeless, so may they find  
their life becomes more fair,  
their life becomes more fair,  
their life, their life becomes more fair.

## WELCOME

Merry Christmas and Peace to you

***Meri Kirihimete e rangimarie.***

E te whānau a Te Karaiti,

ngā mihi aroha ki a tātou katoa.

***Kia ora tātou.***

**Ia manuia le Kirisimasi Merry Christmas**

*A special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.*

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Holy and gracious God,  
on this Christmas morning  
we pause in the glow of your love.  
We give thanks for the gift of life made new,  
for hope born in vulnerability,  
for light that shines not in palaces  
but in hearts open to wonder.

Gather us now—  
from our celebrations and our silences,  
from our fullness and our frailty.  
Meet us where we are,  
and draw us into your deep peace.

As we worship,  
may our spirits be warmed,  
our imaginations stirred,  
and our lives gently reshaped  
by the love that has come into the world.

***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.

## **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE as well as Hope, Peace, Joy & Love**

We have waited with hope,

***for God to bring justice and righteousness.***

We have waited with peace,

***for God's shalom to be felt.***

We have waited with joy,

***celebrating the things God has already done.***

We have waited with love,

***awed by how God's love has been shown to us.***

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

## **COC 48 'Where is the room?' v1**

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?

## **FAMILY TIME**

**Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai**

## **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**

**John Harper**

**Hebrew Bible**

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

**New Testament**

**John 1:1-14**

## Contemporary Reading

## 'A Wellington Christmas'

by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

Here in Wellington,  
we do not wait for snow.  
No blistering winds of Europe,  
(maybe blistering winds of Wellington)  
no frozen fields or silent nights.

We hope instead for summer—  
for sunlight spilling across the harbour,  
for sand between our toes,  
for waves laughing against the shore,  
for smoke rising gently from barbecues  
and stories carried on the sea breeze.

We look for whanau, aiga, family—  
for signs of love and hope  
gathering in familiar faces,  
in open doors and open hearts,  
in the warmth of hospitality  
shared around a barbecue, a hāngī or an umu.

This is Christmas.  
Not measured in wealth,  
nor wrapped in expensive gifts,  
but given freely  
in the gift of whānau,  
of 'āiga,  
of family drawn close.

It is the gift of shared stories,  
of treasured memories,  
of love passed hand to hand,  
heart to heart.

All of it held gently  
in the mystery of this day—  
the birth of the Christ Child,  
born not for power or possession,  
but for love,  
and for us.

## RESPONSE

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

## HYMN

### **‘Where is the room?’**

Carol our Christmas 48

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

1. 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.
2. Let there be room, room  
for the friend and stranger,  
room without hurt or anger,  
room for whoever come,  
room for whoever come.

## REFLECTION

**Rev Dr Fei Taule’ale’ausumai**

## REFLECTIVE MUSIC

**Interlude on Coventry Carol by W.S Lloyd Webber  
(1914-1982)**

## HYMN

### **‘Rejoice, Rejoice at Christmas Time’**

Words: © 2011 William L Wallace World Library Publications

Tune: ELLACOMBE WOV 335

1. Rejoice, rejoice at Christmas time,  
all flesh is sacred now.  
Embrace the manger in your heart  
beyond the why and how.  
For God resides within that space  
of love and cosmic awe,  
the home of singing, dancing love  
beyond life’s mystic door.

2. Rejoice, rejoice at Christmas time,  
all flesh has sacredness:  
all matter bears the sign of God,  
imparts God's holiness.  
For God can never be confined  
beyond our time and space.  
God's hand is touching everything:  
each life reflects God's face.
3. Rejoice, rejoice at Christmas time,  
all flesh reflects God's grace.  
The realm that atoms dance within  
is nature's ballet space.  
When we are one with baby's breath  
and tender love's caress,  
we find a Christmas manger in  
our deepest mind's recess.
4. Rejoice, rejoice at Christmas time,  
make space for starry eyes,  
discern how Jesus looked at life  
with wonder and surprise:  
For deeper than our harshest pain,  
beyond our muddled mind,  
the gift of love in child-like form  
is our most precious find.

## **FREEWILL OFFERING**

### **OFFERING MUSIC**

**"The light, the Christmas light" – music by Vivien Chiu**

### **OFFERING HYMN**

**'Build a longer table'**

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

1. 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

As gifts were once laid beside a manger,  
we offer these gifts now—  
signs of our thankfulness,  
tokens of our hope,  
and commitments to love in the world.  
Receive what is given in joy  
and what is offered with care.

***Bless these offerings,  
that they may carry your peace,  
nurture justice,  
and make room for compassion  
where it is most needed.  
May our giving reflect the love we celebrate today:  
humble, hopeful, and freely shared.  
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

**Jenn Keenan**

## CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of Algeria and we pray for the Protestant Church of Algeria. 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 Maureen Pugh (West Coast-Tasman) and Priyanca Radhakrishnan (List). Here in the Central Presbytery, we pray for the leaders and people of the Johnsonville Uniting 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**

## **COC 7 'Carol our Christmas'**

Words: © Shirley Murray, Music © Colin Gibson Tune: REVERSI

1. Carol our Christmas,  
an upside down Christmas;  
snow is not falling and  
trees are not bare.  
Carol the summer, and  
welcome the Christ child,  
warm in our sunshine and  
sweetness of air.

2. Sing of the gold and the  
green and the sparkle,  
water and river and lure  
of the beach.  
Sing in the happiness  
of open spaces,  
sing a nativity summer  
can reach!
3. Shepherds and musterers  
move over hillsides,  
finding, not angels,  
but sheep to be shorn;  
wise ones make journeys  
whatever the season,  
searching for signs of the  
truth to be born.
4. Right side up Christmas belongs  
to the universe,  
made in the moment  
a woman gives birth;  
hope is the Jesus gift,  
love is the offering,  
everywhere, anywhere  
here on the earth.

## **BLESSING**

May the wonder of this day  
stay with you long after the carols fade.  
May the love born in vulnerability  
strengthen you for the days ahead.  
And may the blessing of God—  
Source of Life,  
Love made flesh,  
and the Spirit who dwells among us—  
rest upon you and remain with you,  
this Christmas Day and always.

***Amen.***

**SUNG AMEN**

**POSTLUDE                    Hallelujah Chorus from “Messiah” by G.F Handel (1685-1759)**

**THANK YOU** to our musician today  
**Peter Franklin**

**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.

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**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.

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# ***ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY NOTICES***

## **MORNING TEA AND LUNCH**

There is a morning tea and lunch upstairs in Conference Rooms 1 & 2 after the service today.

Directions - take the lift to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and walk to the end of the hall.

Please feel free to join us.

## **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.

## **SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE**

If you're going away over the summer break, here are some energy-saving tips for while you're gone, courtesy of Toast Electric, which is part of the Sustainability Trust.

1. Turn off heat pumps at the wall - heat pumps and other heaters can still use a bit of power when they're left on standby.
2. Put your hot water cylinder into holiday mode - if your cylinder has a holiday or away setting, use it. Otherwise, lowering the temperature or switching it off altogether can save a fair bit of energy. Just make sure that, when you return, you allow it to heat up fully before you use the water because of bacteria, e.g. Legionella.
3. Unplug appliances you won't need at the wall - TVs, modems, microwaves, ovens and chargers all use small amounts of power even when they're not doing anything.
4. Close curtains and air the house before you go - close curtains or blinds on the sunny side of the house to keep heat out. Before leaving, open things up to let fresh air through. This helps keep moisture down.
5. Set your solar up to run quietly in the background - if you've got solar power installed check your system is set to export unused power back to

the grid. If you have a battery, switching it to an eco or export mode stops it cycling unnecessarily. - Anna Smith, Sustainability Group

## **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/>

## **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

## **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
Sound	Ben Gray
Laptop	Ben Gray
Offering	Paul Franken and Tony Pears
Coffee/tea	TBC
Family Time	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Readings	John Harper
Prayers of the People	Jenn Keenan
Rainbow Room	Closed
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin
Service Leader	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

### **On duty December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Welcoming	Maxine and Jim Cunningham
Sound	Simon Miller
Laptop	TBC
Offering	Paul Franken and Bridget Martin
Coffee/tea	Vivienne Mountier, Jenn Keenan and Sally Gray
Family Time	Cam Smart
Readings	Gillian Feist
Prayers of the People	Ellen Murray
Rainbow Room	Closed
Library	Closed
Musician	Bruce Corkill
Service Leaders	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

### **This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's**

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>: 10am** Christmas Day Service led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

**Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>: 10am** Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

**Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup>: 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

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
<b>Parish Council Convenor</b>	Sue Hirst
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Barber
<b>Facilities Management Group</b>	Sandra Kirby
<b>Pastoral Care Team</b>	Maxine Cunningham, Pat Booth, Brian Burrell, Katrina Harper, Tony Kirby, Vivienne Mountier and Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
<b>Theologian in Residence</b>	Lloyd Geering
<b>Presbytery Representative</b>	Vacant
<b>Church Music Coordinator</b>	Vacant
<b>Eco Church Coordinator</b>	Sonia Groes-Petrie
<b>Faith in Action Coordinator</b>	Paul Barber
<b>Rainbow Room Coordinator</b>	Caroline Korybut
<b>Roster Coordinator</b>	Pam Fuller
<b>Concert Coordinator</b>	Kristina Zuelicke
<b>Centre Manager</b>	Adelina Reis
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Jemma Ballantyne
<b>Centre Assistant</b>	Sara Rokni
<b>Facilities Assistant(s)</b>	Fynn Neeley-Grant, Isabella Oakley, Cooper Neeley-Grant, Oliver Hope

## St Andrew's on The Terrace

[www.standrews.org.nz](http://www.standrews.org.nz)

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