

ORDER OF SERVICE

28TH DECEMBER 2025

CHRISTMAS 1



THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

The light has come into the world,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word has become flesh and has made a home among us.

Come, you who are joyful. Come, you who are weary.

Come, you who are carrying too much.

In the ordinary and the unexpected,
the Holy One whom we name God is with us.

SILENCE

GATHERING

So let us worship the One who draws near.

Come, let us acknowledge Christ
not far away, but living here—among us.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

AA 132 'Tell my people I love them'

Words; Leonard Barlotti vv 3,4,5 Guy Jansen

Music: Leonard Bartolli arr, Jan Harrington and Guy Jansen

Refrain:

*Tell my people I love them;
tell my people that I care.
When they feel far away from me,
tell my people I am there.*

1. Tell my people I came and died
to give them liberty;
as they abide in me
they will be really free!
2. Tell my people where-e'er they go
to claim my risen power;
my peace and joy and love
is for them hour by hour.
3. Tell my people who grieve and mourn
that I allowed the night
of darkness to descend,
but I am still the Light.
4. Tell my people to share their wealth
and fight the sin of greed;
care for the refugee;
the hungry they're to feed.
5. Tell my people throughout the world
to strive for peace today,
show love for enemies,
be servants of the Way.

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.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Bethlehem and manger stables,
God of angels' songs and babies' cries,
we come to you in this in-between week—
after the rush, after the gatherings,
with leftovers in the fridge and stories still echoing in our hearts.
Meet us here, O Christ.
In our gladness and our grief,
in our gratitude and our tiredness,
in the love we've shared—and the love we still long for.
Make room in us again.
For wonder. For mercy. For courage.
For the quiet work of your Spirit
who keeps bringing light to cracked places.
Gather us as your people—
aiga and whānau, friends and strangers—
and shape us into a living welcome,
so that the world may find in us
a glimpse of your kindness, your justice, and your peace.

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

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

Gillian Feist

Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 63:7-9

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

Contemporary Reading 'Where Is Home?' By Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

Where is home?
Is it a place
where I have my own bed
and my own pillow,

where the night knows my name,
and morning greets me
with familiar sounds,
familiar smells?

Is home where family live—
aiga and whānau—
where laughter spills across the room,
where stories are passed from generation to generation
where belonging is spoken
without words?

Or is home a makeshift shack,
walls stitched together from survival,
where shared food is gathered
from the odd scraps found here and there,
where pots and pans don't match
but kindness does,
where firewood is scavenged
and hope is tended carefully
like a campfire so it doesn't go out?

Where is home?

Is home where there is love,
where there is familiarity,
where someone notices
if you are missing?

And what of the homeless—
where is home for them?
On the streets where footsteps never rest,
under bridges that echo the voices of lost souls,
inside cardboard boxes
that fold and unfold
with the weather?

What of migrants,
refugees fleeing war-torn places,
carrying home in their memories,

in the only clothes they wear, no shoes
in the language they whisper to themselves
so it will not be lost?

What of the children
who are harmed in their own homes,
where walls do not protect
and doors do not keep them safe,
where the word *home*
hurts to say out loud?

Where is home?

Perhaps home is not always a place.
Perhaps it is a presence—
where dignity is honoured,
where safety is real,
where love is practiced
until it becomes shelter.

Perhaps home is wherever
someone says,
“You belong.
You are seen.
You are safe—
for now,
and for tonight.”

Where is home?
It is the question that keeps us human,
and the calling that asks us
to become home
for one another.

RESPONSE

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

HYMN

COC 52 'You are born in us again'

Words: © Shona Murray Music : © Mark Wilson

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 dust that's settled in our hand.
Like the scent of 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

Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

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.

FREEWILL OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING HYMN

AA127 'Take my Gifts' v1

Words © Shirley Murray. Music © Colin Gibson.

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

Gracious and generous God,
as we bring these gifts, we give thanks for the year that has been—
for all that has shaped us, sustained us, and surprised us.
Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and our hope.
Use them for healing, justice, and love in the year ahead,
that your light may continue to shine through us and beyond us.

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

Ellen Murray

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of American Samoa and we pray for the National Council of Churches in American Samoa. 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 Suze Redmayne (Rangitikei) and Hon Shane Reti (Whangārei). Here in the Central Presbytery, we pray for the leaders and people of the Kapiti Uniting Parish.

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

CH4 533 'Will you come and follow me'

Words © John L Bell and Graham Maule

Tune: KELVINGROVE Trad Scottish arr John L Bell

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

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

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/>

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

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	Maxine and Jim Cunningham
Sound	Simon Miller
Laptop	Cam Smart
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 Leader	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

On duty January 4th

Welcoming	Pauline and David Patchett
Sound	Sue Hirst
Laptop	Sue Hirst
Offering	Katrina Harper and Paul Franken
Coffee/tea	Aaron Cook, Janet Horncy and Jeni Bryant
Family Time	Frank Cook
Readings	John Harper
Prayers of the People	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 28th: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

Sunday January 4th: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

Sunday January 11th: 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

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