

ORDER OF SERVICE

17 DECEMBER 2023

Advent 3 "JOY"

FINDING JOY AMONGST FRIENDS IN GAZA



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 seek to be a community that is safe and welcoming for everyone regardless of sexual orientation, relationship status, gender identity or expression, sex characteristics, age, mental and physical abilities, mental health, neurotype, economic power, ethnicity, faith or belief.

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

"Nöel Suisse" (Part 1)

by Louis Claude-Daquin (1694-1772)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Advent challenges us
to see God's vision of what is yet to be,
to hear God's voice calling anew,
to smell the scent of God in the world.

Let us celebrate life in the presence of an Advent God.

SILENCE

GATHERING

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!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Chosen by Frank Hanson

COC29 'Light of lights beholden'

Words and Music © Jenny McLeod 1983 AA89 (2 verses)

1. Light of lights beholden
we from days of olden
sang this song
for to understand
that peace upon this planet
was pledged to come.
Each to other, sister, brother,
born for life and song,

Refrain

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

2. Darkness all around us,
light has always found us,
light will come
where the dark is deepest,
greater light will keep us
safe from harm.
Troubled times will always find
a voice of troubled doom,

Refrain

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

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

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 recognised;

***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.***

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 ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Frank Hanson to light in celebration of his 90th birthday.

(Frank to read)

We light this candle signifying joy:
our common need,
our common wealth.

Joy is our protest against despair; Joy is God's gift.

Come Christ, Joy of our hearts

Enter our lives so that all people may have a place to stand.

SUNG RESPONSE

AA154 'Where is the room?' verse 1

Words ©Shirley Erena Murray Music ©David Dell 1993

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 **Amid Gaza's horrors, children find a place of Joy - video clip**

PASSING THE PEACE

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

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Anna Smith

Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

New Testament

1 Thess 5: 16-24

Contemporary Reading

"Wonder of life stories told a fresh"

by Bronwyn White

In this season when we're urged to spend
and max out our cards and pay later
and not count the cost;
when many people really give until it hurts,
until there's nothing left for necessities,
until they start a new year
not in high hopes but deep in debt;

In this season where gold and frankincense
are balanced with myrrh
may we remember to share those things that have
value beyond price: a smile to a stranger,
help with heavy bags,
other random acts of kindness.

As we hear familiar stories at this time of year
may we listen as though for the first time;
let go of cynicism or boredom
and be open to the wonder of our life-stories told afresh.

In this season of giving and getting,
forgetting and remembering,
may we find wealth in generosity of spirit.
May our priority in this season be to honour life,
beginning with the life we each have and moving on
into the life that surges all around us.
Spirit of love, joy, peace and hope
despite all the challenges around the world and in our lives
we give thanks for the grace, compassion and
persistent love throughout the universe;
for the possibility and promise of transformation,
and for hope reborn each year.

RESPONSE

For grace, for compassion, for the promise of transformation, for the
persistent love in all creation,
we give thanks.

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 musters
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.

REFLECTION

The down side of piety

Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

MUSIC

Congregation to remain seated.

“Laudate Dominum”

From Taizé Community Joy on Earth album

HYMN

'Tell out, my soul'

Words: © Timothy Dudley-Smith

TUNE: WOODLANDS

A paraphrase of the Song of Mary Luke 1: 46-55

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word –
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same –
his holy name: the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure:
tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

OFFERING MUSIC

Stuttgart ("Come Thou Long Expected Jesus")

by H. Gauntlett (1805-1876)

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

*God of our lives and our world.
We offer these gifts and our lives,
in gratitude for all that has been given to us.
Above all, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus,
for his turning the tables on power and piety.
May our lives also reflect these commitments.
In your many names, we pray. 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

If you have a notice to share, please come forward. Thank you.

People share notices and visitors are welcomed. 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hamish Dick

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of the Denmark and the the National Council of Churches in Denmark. We hold all refugees in our hearts and pray in particular for those who are still detained in Australia. We give thanks for recent progress and pray that their calls for justice might yet be answered with compassion. In New Zealand, we remember those in Parliament, and today we name Hon David Parker (List) and Dr Parmjeet Parmar (List). Here in the Central Presbytery we pray for the leaders and people of St James' Presbyterian Church, New Plymouth.

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.***

HYMN

Chosen by Frank Hanson

WOV 669 'I am the light of the world'

Words: Howard Thurman and Jim Strathdee Music © 1969 Jim Strathdee

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Refrain

*'I am the Light of the world.
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love
you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

1. When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

Refrain

*'I am the Light of the world.
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love
you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

2. to find the lonely and the lost,
to heal their broken souls with love,
to feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above;

Refrain

*'I am the Light of the world.
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love
you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

3. to free the prisoners from their chains,
to make the powerful care,
to re-build the nations
with strength of goodwill,
to be at one with people everywhere;

Refrain

*'I am the Light of the world.
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love
you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

4. to bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music
in an old man's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth.

Refrain

*'I am the Light of the world.
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love
you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

BLESSING

Go into this birthing time with joy;
joining in God's dream of justice for the whole Earth
and may the blessing of God:
who embraces dances in creation,
who embraces us with human love,
who comforts and unsettles us,
be with us all now and always.
Amen.

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

"Antioch" Carillon

by Mary Beth Bennett (b. 1954)

THANK YOU

Peter Franklin
our musician today

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



AUDIO REFLECTIONS

Sunday reflections are usually available on our website.

<http://www.standrews.org.nz/category/sunday-gathering>

We welcome all visitors and invite you to stay for morning tea or coffee.

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

ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We're looking at offering a lunch to follow the 10am service on Christmas day but need some help to organize it (one person needed) and an indication as to who would be interested in attending.

Please let the office know if you would be able to give a hand and / or would like to attend a lunch on Christmas Day by Friday next, December 22nd.

Email: Office @ St Andrew's office@standrews.org.nz or Phone: (04) 472 9211
Arohanui, Pam Fuller

WHO OWNS THE HOLY LAND?

We have available 30 copies of Lloyd Geering's 2001 book *Who owns the Holy Land?*, based on his lecture series delivered in that year and published by the St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact the office, either in person or by e-mail (Office@standrews.org.nz). A contribution in the range of \$5-\$10 would be much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS AT ST ANDREW'S ON THE TERRACE

Christmas Eve:

Sunday Gathering at 10am

Christmas Carol Service 8pm - please join us for sherry and Christmas cake from 7:30pm. The service, led by the Reverend Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai, also features duets by Pepe Becker and Kate Lineham, accompanied by Dan Poynton.

Christmas Day - Morning service at 10am

SUPPORT FOR DCM (DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY MINISTRY)

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 at the back of 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 **and some treats for this Christmas time.** (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

CWS CHRISTMAS APPEAL – “SHARE FOOD THIS CHRISTMAS”



Somawathie knows what is like to work very hard and watch as her crops are destroyed by hungry elephants or the lack of water or fertiliser. In Sri Lanka, she lives on a small plot of land and is learning new ways of growing enough food at low-cost. Like many small farmers, she can see the effects of the climate disaster. Thanks to our partner Monlar, she has changed her approach to gardening and no longer buys expensive seeds and fertiliser. But she has found her own ways to scare the elephants that walk over her land in search of food. The climate crisis is one more challenge that she faces. This Christmas we are asking you to support our appeal, Share Food this Christmas.

The CWS Christmas Appeal has been a tradition in New Zealand churches

since 1945 when the first Christmas Bowl appeal was launched to raise funds for post-war reconstruction in Greece. Together we have supported millions of people through conflict and disaster. We have helped them improve their lives and livelihoods. Your donations have funded our local partners to strengthen communities in their efforts to end violence and promote human rights and peace. Thank you.

Donations can be made through CWS:

- **Online at cws.org.nz/donate**
- **By direct deposit** (Name of Account: Christian World Service, ANZ Account number: 06 0817 0318646 00 Email your postal details to cws@cws.org.nz if you would like a tax receipt)
- **By Phone with a credit card: 0800 74 73 72**
- **By Post to: CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140**

Remember: all donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible.

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. Thousands of people have been killed, injured and displaced. Nearly two hundred people are being

held as hostages. Hospitals including the Al Ahli Arab Hospital, schools and homes have been damaged or destroyed. The need for a ceasefire and humanitarian relief is overwhelming.

“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.

Funds raised will meet some of the urgent needs of people through our long term partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). In Gaza, DSPR is providing shelter, food and support to people who have fled the north and who have lost homes. Some churches are hosting Muslim and Christian families from the community. Together they have secured some food supplies, but more will be needed in the months ahead.

CWS is supporting the **call** for an immediate ceasefire and access for humanitarian relief.

DSPR is an integral part of the local community. It is preparing to help many more people as soon as it practically can with:

- Food
- hygiene kits
- shelter
- medications and medical treatment
- psychosocial support

Donations can be made through CWS:

- **Online and by direct deposit to the Gaza Palestine Emergency Appeal**
- **By Phone with a credit card: 0800 74 73 72**
- **By Post to: CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140**

NB: CWS is a member of ACT Alliance a coalition of over 140 churches working together on humanitarian, development in over 120 countries.

RELIEFAID APPEAL FOR GAZA



ReliefAid is on the ground delivering humanitarian aid in Gaza , where families face unprecedented horror.

The situation in Gaza has reached crisis point, the death toll rises daily and families have nowhere to flee. Compounding the distress, Gaza's closed borders have made humanitarian access all but impossible, leaving families lost, abandoned and without the basics needed to survive.

Despite these monumental challenges ReliefAid is **NOW** delivering aid in Gaza.

As we have done in other conflicts, ReliefAid is once again bringing help where it is needed most. Leveraging our established networks on the ground, we have deployed a team within Gaza to deliver life-saving aid directly to families.

We held back from asking for your support until we knew we could get emergency aid on the ground. We have solved this problem, now we need your help to get aid to families who have nowhere to run.

Please stand with us in this critical moment. Your support will have an immediate impact in saving lives and alleviating the suffering of families in Gaza.

Please also share our message of hope with your friends, family and colleagues.

Together we will make a difference. Thank you.

Donations can be made here: www.reliefaid.org.nz/gaza-appeal/

Mike Seawright
Founder and Chief Executive

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	Sonia Groes-Petrie
Laptop	Cam Smart
Offering	Lynette Burrell, Paul Franken
Coffee/tea	Kath Kerr, Marilyn Wallace and Richard Owen
Family Time	-
Readings	Anna Smith (CG)
Prayers of the People	Hamish Dick
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Pauline Patchett
Musician	Peter Franklin

On duty Sunday 24 December – Sunday Gathering

Welcoming	Pat Booth, Pam Fuller
Sound	Sue Hirst
Laptop	Sue Hirst (CG)
Offering	Bridget Martin, Tony Pears
Coffee/tea	None
Family Time	Frank Cook
Readings	Frank Hanson
Prayers of the People	Pat Booth
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin

On duty Sunday 24 December – Christmas Eve Carol Service

Welcoming	Lynette and Brian Burrell
Sound	Ben Gray
Laptop	Cam Smart
Offering	John Harper, Barrie Keenan
Coffee/tea	Sherry and Cake Sandra and Tony Kirby (CG)
Family Time	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Readings	Marilyn Wallace
Prayers of the People	Lynne Dovey
communion	Lynne Dovey, Frank Cook, Kath Kerr, Janet Horncy, Janet Martin, Ellen Murray
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin

On duty Monday 25 December – Christmas Morning Service	
Welcoming	Pam Fuller
Sound	Sue Hirst (CG)
Laptop	Sue Hirst
Offering	Tony Pears, Paul Franken
Coffee/tea	None
Family Time	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Readings	Tony Kirby
Prayers of the People	Sandra Kirby
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's	
Sunday 17 December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai followed by Congregational Conversation	
Wednesday 20 December: 10:30am - Cuppa and a Chat in the Centre	
Sunday 24 December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai 8:00pm Christmas Eve Carol Service	
Monday 25 December: 10am Christmas Morning service	
STANDARD MONTHLY SUNDAY CYCLE OF ACTIVITIES AFTER SERVICE	
1st Sunday	Communion service followed by Exploring Faith.
2nd Sunday	Congregational Brunch on even months Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec.
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	Vacant
Roster Coordinator	Pam Fuller
Concert Coordinator	Kristina Zuelicke
Centre Manager	Adelina Reis
Office Administrator	Christine Wilkinson
Facilities Assistant(s)	H. Wilkinson, O. Ruegg, L. Oakley, M. Barber

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

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