

ORDER OF SERVICE

25 DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTMAS DAY



**During the service we will gather an offering for the
Christian World Service Christmas Gift Appeal.**

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

"In dulci jubilo"

by J.S. Bach BWV 729 (1685 – 1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joy to the world, the Christ child is here. Born in a lowly manger into poverty but come to bring hope to a hopeless world and bring peace, joy and love. Emmanuel God with us.

SILENCE

GATHERING

O come let us adore him. A child is born the word made flesh and dwells among us today. God incarnate in Jesus.

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.

la manuia le Kirisimasi

A special welcome to those who are visiting with us today. Please join us for Christmas lunch after the service.

OPENING PRAYER

Still us this morning as we celebrate the birth of Jesus after a night of celebration. Remind us again of why we are here. Help us to see our purpose in this thing that has come to pass that requires of each of us to become the Christ presence in this world where there is warfare and poverty, grief and hopelessness. May we be that hope, peace, joy and love that the world is crying out for today. Emmanuel God with us. ***Amen.***

*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?' verse 1

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 **Jesus was born into poverty. Do you know what poverty is?**

Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

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

Tony Kirby

Hebrew Bible

Psalm 98

New Testament

John 1:1-14

Contemporary Reading paraphrased.

Hope for the Children

by Douglas Clark

Sound the Bamboo, Christian Conference of Asia

Hope for the children in our midst,
facing a world that's conflict torn.
All that they ask is time to grow,
and live the years for which they're born.

Hope for the children ev'rywhere,
we'll build with them a world of peace.

The sound of war is ev'rywhere,
wondering if there's a chance for peace.
Yet for children that we love
we will not yield 'til hate shall cease.

Peace is the goal of all we do.
Love leads to justice on the earth.
Let justice flow like waters clear,
so we may see the world's rebirth.

Hope for the children yet to be,
pray they may find years free from war.
Let us make ploughshares of all swords,
harvesting life healed evermore.

RESPONSE

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

HYMN

COC 8 'Child of Christmas story'

Words: Shirley, Music: Richard Madden

Tune: INCARNATION

1. Child of Christmas story,
stable straw and star,
small and sweet and gentle,
tell us who you are.
2. Child whose baby finger
round our own is curled,
come to melt our hearts,
and come to change the world.
3. Child of Jew and gentile,
child of white and black,
teach us how to love you,
teach us what we lack.
4. Child of Mary's courage,
birthed in human pain,
tell us what your name is,
be our hope again.

REFLECTION

Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

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.

OFFERING MUSIC

"Nöel Suisse" (Part 1)

by Louis Claude-Daquin (1694-1772)

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 FOR CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE



OFFERING PRAYER

We pray for Christian World Service and the work they are doing around the world, in the midst of crisis, natural disasters, war and famine. Bless these offerings that they may be used to support the CWS Appeal to Share Kai this Christmas and bless the many homes that this appeal will reach and beyond. 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

Sandra Kirby

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

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 mustersers
 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

And now may the blessings of life be upon us.
May the memories we gather here give us hope for the future.
May the love that we share bring
strength and joy to our hearts, as we
live into the just reign of God, and the
peace of Christ be with us until we meet
again.

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

“Antioch” Carillon

by Mary Beth Bennett (b. 1954)

THANK YOU

Peter Franklin
our musician today

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If you're looking for some company for lunch today you're invited to join Dawn and Pam for a Parish lunch in Conference room 1 at 11am after church.

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.

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	Pam Fuller
Sound	Sue Hirst (CG)
Laptop	Sue Hirst
Offering	Tony Pears, Paul Franken
Coffee/tea	Lunch in Conference Room 1
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

On duty Sunday 31 December

Welcoming	Pauline and David Patchett
Sound	Sonia Groes-Petrie (CG)
Laptop	Cam Smart
Offering	Barrie and Jenn Keenan
Coffee/tea	Vivienne Mountier, Simon Miller
Family Time	Dawn Cowdry (TBC)
Readings	John Harper
Prayers of the People	Sonia Groes-Petrie
Rainbow Room	In recess
Library	Closed
Musician	Judy Dumbleton

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's

Monday 25 December: 10am Christmas Morning service

Sunday 31 December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Ian Harris

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

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