



ORDER OF SERVICE

25th DECEMBER 2024

CHRISTMAS DAY



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

By Bronwyn Angela White

Come, let us walk the road that Mary walked
the challenging road
from Nazareth to Bethlehem
not knowing what the future holds.

Come, let us walk the road that Joseph walked
not sure what we are taking on
but standing to be counted
no matter the cost of such love.

Come, let us walk the road that Jesus walked
from Bethlehem – via Jerusalem – to Galilee
from Advent to Easter
from new birth to new life.

SILENCE

GATHERING

We gather on this festive day, at this special time,
searching for a reality present within and beyond our everyday lives.

We come hoping to touch that “something more” in the stories of Jesus and his birth so long ago,

seeking a deeper connection with Divine reality.

In joyful expectation we make time now to calm and centre ourselves,
inviting the Spirit to open our eyes to wonder and surprise.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

WOV 228 'O Come all ye Faithful' vv 1,2,6

Music John Francis Wade Words C. Frederick Oakeley (alt)words

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*
2. God of God,
Light of light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created;
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God in the highest;
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

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 Room 1 after church.

OPENING PRAYER

We are thankful to gather here on this Christmas morning mindful of those who have no idea what Christmas is all about. We remember those who are homeless today and have nowhere to lay their heads let alone have a meal. Surround us this morning with your love and peace that we might be the light to others on this Christmas day. ***Amen.***

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.

Christmas – Light the Christ Candle as well as Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

On this Christmas Day, we celebrate the Christ-child amongst us, and the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love we offer to others. Light the candle

God of hope, peace, joy and love; We celebrate your gifts of life and justice in Jesus' birth. Give us a sense of wonder and grace so that all people can rejoice in your transforming words and actions.

E te whānau, brothers and sisters,

Christ is born anew among us today!

Gracious God, on this most holy of days,

may Christ be our light.

For the life that was the light of all people

we light this candle.

FAMILY TIME - THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Now, I need your help to tell the rest of this story of the first Christmas...

Joseph: stand, raise their right hands, and say, "O Holy Night."

Mary: stand, pretend to hold a baby, and say, "Ahhh."

Baby: stand, place their hands over their hearts, and say, "Love."

Angels: stand, hold out hands like angel wings, and say, "Peace."

Shepherds: stand and say 'Baaa'

Let's practise that....

Right, we will get on with our story:

This story is from the book of Luke, Chapter 2:

Joseph (pause)

went from Nazareth in Galilee, up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census.

Joseph (pause)

went with **Mary** (pause),

to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a **baby** (pause).

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her **baby** (pause).

She gave birth to a son, her firstborn.

Mary (pause)

wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid

the baby (pause)

in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

Now to get on with our story. Shepherd and angels, you feature in this next part – would you like to have a quick refresher before we begin?

Shepherds (stand and say baa)

Angels (hold out 'wings' and say 'Peace')

Excellent

There were **shepherds** (pause)

camping in the fields, keeping watch over their sheep through the night.

Suddenly God's **angel** (pause)

stood among them, and God's glory blazed around them.

The **shepherds** (pause) were terrified.

But the **angel** (pause) said to them, "Don't be afraid;

I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everyone, worldwide:

A Saviour has just been born in David's town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master.

This is the sign you are looking for: a **baby** (pause) wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

At once the **angel** (pause)

was joined by a huge angelic choir, praising God:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights.

Peace to all on earth who please God!

When the **angels** (pause)

had left them and gone into heaven,

the **shepherds** (pause)

talked it over: "Let's go over to Bethlehem as fast as we can, and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us."

They left running, and found **Mary** (pause)

and **Joseph** (pause),

and the **baby** (pause)

lying in the manger. Seeing was believing.

They told everyone they met what

the **angels** (pause)

had said about this **baby** (pause).

All who heard it were amazed at what the

shepherds (pause)

told them, but **Mary** (pause)

kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself.

The **shepherds** (pause)

returned, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen.

It turned out exactly the way they had been told!

PASSING THE PEACE

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

THE WORD IN TEXTS

John Harper

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

RESPONSE

For the Word in scripture and music,
For the Word among us,
For the Word within us,
We give thanks

HYMN

COC 8 'Child of Christmas story'

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1992 Richard Madden

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

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

Mary, Did you Know? By Pentatonix

CHRISTMAS CAROL

'Away In a Manger'

WOV 242 Music: William James Kirkpatrick

1. Away in a manger, no pillow or bed,
the baby boy Jesus is born in a shed;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the baby boy Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. While cattle are standing, the baby's asleep
Sought after by shepherds who leave all their sheep;
And wise men bring treasures; they've come from afar
To give gifts to Jesus; they followed a star.
3. Yes, Jesus is near me, I know he will stay
Close by me for ever and love me each day;
He blesses all children; we know we will share
A wonderful friendship in his tender care.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERING HYMN

'Lord, what offering shall we bring?' v2

Words: John Taylor TUNE: Duke Street WOV24

Willing hands, to lead the blind,
heal the wounded, feed the poor.
Love embracing all our kind,
charity with liberal store.

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God, you ask us to be faithful people.
In this community, you ask us to be people of justice.
In this community, you ask us to be people of mercy.
In this community, you ask us to be people of peace.
Be with us as we try to be faithful
in large ways and in small ways
so your eternal community may come in every way.
Amen.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

We think today of the people of Morocco. We pray for the safety of economic migrants in Morocco, and throughout the world. We hold all refugees in our hearts and pray in particular for those who are still detained in Australia. We give thanks that we in New Zealand are able to welcome some from this group. We pray that more will have the opportunity to be resettled in the near future. In New Zealand, we remember those in Parliament, and today we name Tom Rutherford (Bay of Plenty) and Jenny Salesa (Panmure-Ōtāhuhu). Here in the Central Presbytery we pray for the leaders and people of Hastings - St John's Presbyterian Church.

PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S

*Renew your people, God,
And renew our life in this place.
Give us a new spirit of unity
with all who follow the Way of Jesus
and new bonds of love
with people of other faiths.*

*Bless the city in which we live
that it may be a place
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

WOV 224 'Joy To The World'

Music: George Frederick Handel Words: Lowell Mason

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come
let earth receive her King
let every heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing
and heaven and nature sing
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns
let us our songs employ
while fields and floods
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy
repeat the sounding joy
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
and glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love
and wonders of His love
and wonders of His love.

BLESSING

Let us go gently into this sacred day
as those who have seen the Christ.
We can go without fear
for a divine light
illumined by the very heart of God,
shines on our paths
and leads us to the place
where hope, peace, joy, and love are fulfilled.
Surely, now is the time for rejoicing!

May Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, give you, those you love, and those you find it hard to love, the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the love of the holy family and the peace which passes all understanding this Christmas and always, and the blessing of God the Creator, Jesus the Christ and the Holy Spirit who dwells in our midst. Amen.

SUNG BLESSING

FFS 49 'May the God of new beginnings'

Words © John Murray, Music © Colin Gibson

May the God of new beginnings, start with you and me.
May the God of continuing story, speak through you and me.
May the God of infinite wisdom, shine through you and me.
May the God of safe homecomings, welcome you and me.

SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

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.

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

RECYCLING AT ST ANDREW'S

We are expanding the range of materials that we collect for recycling at St Andrew's. You can now bring plastic lids (including milk bottle caps), metal lids, beverage cartons (Tetra Pak) and used pens. There are containers for each sort of material in the North Vestry. A take-home information sheet, on the desk in the North Vestry, tells you all you need to know about what we do and don't collect.

RECYCLING OF HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

Household batteries can be dropped off for FREE 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. For Hutt Valley and other members, Bunnings' stores have recycling bins where used batteries can be left. Happy recycling!

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 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 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.**

RELIEFAID APPEAL FOR GAZA

Another option is ReliefAid which is on the ground delivering emergency aid to families. The situation in Gaza is catastrophic, 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. Leveraging our established networks on the ground, we have deployed a team within Gaza to deliver life-saving aid directly to families. **Donations can be made here** www.reliefaid.org.nz/gaza-appeal/

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 and one other
Sound	Sonia Groes-Petrie
Laptop	Cam Smart
Offering	Tony Pears and Paul Franken
Coffee/tea	Pam Fuller – Room 1
Family Time	Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai
Readings	John Harper
Prayers of the People	TBC
Rainbow Room	Caroline Korybut
Library	Closed
Musician	Peter Franklin
Service Leader	Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

On duty December 29th

Welcoming	Pauline and David Patchett
Sound	Simon Miller
Laptop	Sue Hirst
Offering	Lynette Burrell and Bridget Martin
Coffee/tea	Kath Kerr, Sally Gray and Michael Parker
Family Time	Dawn Cowdry
Readings	Frank Hanson
Prayers of the People	Cam Smart
Rainbow Room	Caroline Korybut
Library	Closed
Musician	Judy Dumbleton
Service Leader	Rev Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

This Week and Coming Events at St Andrew's

Wednesday 25th December: 10am Christmas Day Service led by Rev. Dr Fei Taule'ale'ausumai

Sunday 29th December: 10am Sunday Gathering led by Ellen Murray

STANDARD MONTHLY SUNDAY CYCLE OF ACTIVITIES AFTER SERVICE

- 1st Sunday Communion service followed by Community Brunch on even months
Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec.
- 2nd Sunday Congregational service followed by Exploring Faith
- 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	Caroline Korybut
Roster Coordinator	Pam Fuller
Concert Coordinator	Kristina Zuelicke
Centre Manager	Adelina Reis
Office Administrator	Jemma Ballantyne
Centre Assistant	Germaine Ambray
Facilities Assistant(s)	R. MacConghie, O. Ruegg, M. Barber, L. Oakley, F. Neeley-Grant

St Andrew's on The Terrace

www.standrews.org.nz

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