#### **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

#### *Matawhero Church – Church Lane*

#### *St Andrew’s Church and Community Centre:*

#### *176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

#### [*www.standrewsgis.org.nz*](http://www.standrewsgis.org.nz)

####  ***16 July 2023******Matariki celebrated******Pentecost 7***

***We welcome all visitors to our service this morning.***

***Please sign the Visitors’ Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who stand at the back of the church.***

***A toilet is located in the foyer.***

***In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes, especially in the hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language with which you are most comfortable.***

***BOLDED WORDS are for congregational response.***

***Where there is an asterisk \* you are invited to stand.***

Prelude

Welcome, News and Information

Introduction

Winter, season of hidden mystery – of death that leads to life,

sleep that leads to awakening, reflection that leads to action.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

 *Isaiah 9: 2*

When night lingers, the gentle light of Mata-ariki – the eyes of God –

Turns our eyes to the promise of spring.

May the Light of the World shine on you this day.

May the Light of Life guide and inspire you.

Silent Preparation

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Introit and Entry of Bible and symbols of the seasons

Introit (Choir) AA31 *(translation – not for singing)*

1. **E te Atua aroha mai,**  x 3 *O God love us*

 **Ake ake tonu e.** x 2 *forever and ever*

1. **E te Atua manaaki mai** , x 3*O God bless us*

 **Ake ake tonu e.** x 2*forever and ever*

1. **E te Atua awhina mai**, x 3*O God help us*

 **Ake ake tonu e.** x 2*forever and ever*

Call to Worship

In the bleak heart of a southern winter as the earth sleeps

 **God’s promise in Christ is affirmed**

In the rising of Matariki and the assurance of new life,

 **God’s promise is affirmed.**

As the rest-filled night gives way to life-bringing light

 **God’s promise in Christ is affirmed.**

Take heart, friends of Christ!

When the coldness of winter makes us despondent,

 **The Light of the World gathers us in love.**

When the greyness of winter leaves us lonely,

 **The breaking of bread reminds us**

 **We are brothers and sisters in Christ**

When the long weeks of winter makes life dreary,

 **God’s promise in Christ has power to restore us.**

 **May our faith fill us with joy and trust.**

**\*HYMN**  **CH4: 148** – Tune St Patrick 639

**The spacious firmament on high,**

**with all the blue ethereal sky,**

**and spangled heavens, a shining frame,**

**their great Original proclaim.**

**The unwearied sun, from day to day,**

**does his Creator’s power display,**

**and publishes to every land,**

**the work of an almighty hand.**

**Soon as the evening shades prevail,**

**the moon takes up the wondrous tale,**

**and nightly to the listening earth**

**repeats the story of her birth;**

**while all the stars that round her burn,**

**and all the planets, in their turn,**

**confirm the tidings, as they roll,**

**and spread the truth from pole to pole.**

**What though in solemn silence all**

**move round this dark terrestrial ball;**

**what though no real voice nor sound**

**amid their radiant orbs be found?**

**In reason’s ear they all rejoice,**

**and utter forth a glorious voice,**

 **for ever singing, as they shine,**

**‘The hand that made us is divine!”**

*Joseph Addison (1672-1719)*

Prayer of Approach and Confession

The light shines in the night of rest,

Promising the warmth of renewed life.

 **Source of light, remind us again**

 **that you fill our darkest times with the light of hope.**

The light shines in the dark of despair,

Making bright the path to peace and renewed joy.

 **Source of light, in the embrace of the peaceful night,**

 **your beckoning life guides us towards new times.**

The light shines in the night of puzzlement and uncertainty.

 **Source of light, remind us again**

 **that you blaze through our self-chosen darkness,**

 **even here, even now.**

When we ignore your glowing ember,

 **sear our soul with remembrance.**

When we confuse the shadows of willfulness and whimsy with your will and your way,

 **illuminate our mind with understanding.**

When we would hide from the warmth of your invitation to life,

 **envelop us, embrace us, enlighten us by your Spirit.**

*(time for silent prayer)*

As the deep dark of winter mantles the land with rest,

As the penetrating light of your presence stirs fresh shoots,

 **remind us again**

 **that in you the people have seen a great light,**

 **in you the very light of life lifts and restores us. Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

**Mother, Father God, hallowed be your Name**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen**

Anthem: Great ring of light **AA 57**

**With the children** *The little Kiwi’s Matariki*by Nikki Slade Robinson

Question – What are four things that animals said about Matariki? It begins with the words ‘Time for…’

The stars of Matariki

**\*HYMN** I love the sun, it shines on me; CH4 144

**I love the sun, it shines on me;**

**God made the sun, and God made me**

**I love the stars, they twinkle on me;**

**God made the stars, and God made me.**

**I love the rain, it splashes on me;**

**God made the rain, and God made me.**

**I love the wind, it blows round me;**

**God made the wind, and God made me.**

**I love the birds, they sing to me;**

**God made the birds, and God made me**

 *Words and music © SCM Canterbury Press Lid*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 19: 1-6

Anthem: The heavens are telling the glory of the Lord **WOV: 625**

 *Haydn arr Colin Alexander Gibson (b. 1933)*

HYMN **Give thanks for life, CH4: 736** Time of Remembrance and Prayer

**Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,**

**mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,**

**yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise:**

 ***Alleluia, Alleluia!***

**Give thanks for those whose lives shone with a light**

**caught from the Christ-flame, gleaming through the night,**

**who touched the truth, who burned for what is right: *Alleluia!***

**Give thanks for all, our living and our dead,**

**thanks for the love by which our life is fed,**

**a love not changed by time or death or dread: *Alleluia!***

**Give thanks for hope that, like the seed of grain**

**lying in darkness, does its life retain**

**to rise in glory, growing green again: *Alleluia!***

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

**\*HYMN** Tune: O Waly Waly **CH4: 234**

**‘Tis winter now; the fallen snow**

**has left the heavens all coldly clear;**

**through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,**

**and all the earth lies dead and drear.**

**And yet God’s love is not withdrawn;**

**his life within the keen air breathes;**

**his beauty paints the crimson dawn,**

**and clothes each branch with glittering wreaths.**

**And though abroad the sharp winds blow,**

**and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,**

**home closer draws her circle now,**

**and warmer glows her light within.**

**O God, you give the winter’s cold,**

**as well as summer’s joyous rays,**

**you warmly in your love enfold**

**and keep us through life’s wintry days.**

 *Samuel Longfellow (1819-189*

Reading: Job 38: 1, 19-36

**\*HYMN**  **AA: 68**

 **If I take the wings of the morning**

**to fly with them over the sea,**

**no matter how far or how fast I've flown,**

**I'll not be alone, my God is forever with me.**

 **I may reach the gateway of heaven,**

**descend to the portals of hell,**

**though spirits of evil or death appear,**

**I'll show them no fear, for God will be with me as well.**

 **If I should conceal me in darkness**

**and dress in the clothing of night,**

**yet there in the deepest of gloom confined,**

**I'll never be blind, for God is the giver of light.**

 **Now I need no wings of the morning,**

**from paths of despair I'll be free,**

**and though I encounter the darkest shade,**

**I'll not be afraid, for God will be ever with me.**

 *Nigel Eastgate*

*Based on Psalm 139*

**Offertory and Dedication:** The offering is now received at the door as we enter. If you missed noticing this, you may place a retiring offering into the offering boxes at the door as you leave. Our dedication covers all our acts of giving:

*\*L: O Lord our God; You have inspired others to serve You:*

*Accept, now lord, all of our giftings of support and donations;*

 *All our ministries of song and music;*

 *All our Administration and acts of personal service,*

 *Our outreach through hospitality and caring for others*

**All : Use these, and use us; for the growth of Your Kingdom**

 **to reach and touch the hearts of others;**

 **to continue to learn lessons from You;**

 **and to live alongside one another.**

 **All in the Name of Jesus, our Master and Teacher,**

**Introduction to Holy Darkness prayer** Circle of Life p235

**Holy Darkness Prayer**

![MC900331899[1]]()

![MC900300215[1]]() ![MC900300215[1]]() ![MC900300215[1]]()

Dear Fruitful Ground of our Being, you turn the sun’s face away from us as you gather us into the darkness of winter. You call us inside to the great fires in our hearts, those fires we have never believed in. You ask us to warm the hands of hope in our secret soul places. You show us the heaven seeds that have been planted in our souls, and you remind us that heaven’s answers rest in the dark ground of our beings.

![MC900331899[1]]()**We praise you, O holy Darkness**

Dear Darkening Ground of our Being, when the deep loneliness comes, you cradle us in your enriching dark arms. In the darkness you teach us to trust in what we cannot see, to hope for that which seems impossible, to have faith in the night of unknowing. You reveal to us the necessity of patience and the holiness of waiting in the dark as we enter into solitude.

![MC900300215[1]]() **We praise you, O Holy Darkness**

Dear Darkening Ground of our Being, in the darkness you cover us with beauty; the poetry of the moon and stars, the loveliness of nocturnal creatures who make music in the forest’s darkness, the mystery of silvery shadows. You soften the day’s light to show us the light of night. You give us the gift of rest and sleep. You send us your night angel to close our tired eyes and breathe dreams and visions into our longing hearts.

![MC900331899[1]]() **We praise you, O Holy Darkness**

Dear Darkening Ground of our Being, once upon a time in the holy darkness of our mother’s womb, we waited for birth. Now we are being born again. We are growing wings in our sorrow’s darkness and finding new eyes that can see in the dark. On your black, earthy pillow we rest our heads and hearts. We trust your unseen blessings.

![MC900300215[1]]() **We praise you, O Holy Darkness**

Dear Darkening Ground of our Being, all of creation finds life in the watery womb of your darkness. Deep in the rich black soil of the earth many happy seeds are cradles in your nurturing womb. Soon the shell of the seed will crack open and blessings will rise up out of the darkness.

![MC900300215[1]]() **We praise you, O Holy Darkness**

**Concluding Prayer**

 *Joyce Rupp*

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**\*HYMN CH4: 146**

**From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator’s praise arise:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia**

**Let the Redeemer’s Name be sung through every land, in every tongue,**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Eternal are your mercies, Lord: eternal truth attends your word:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more:**

 **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia**! *Isaac Watts. From Psalm 117*

**BENEDICTION PRAYER / KARAKIA**

Lights of the world

Light of Matariki stars

Light of Marama – the moon

Light of Ra – the sun

Light of worlds and galaxies

Reflect off us

Shine in us

That we may be light-sharers

Love-makers

Care-givers

Nga tamariki – children of earth and sky

Caring for our mother the earth

Our father the sky

the atmosphere around us;

dreamers and scatterers of stars.

Light

Lightened

Weightless

Enlightened:

Let us be light.

Let us shine!

**Waiata Aroha** and Exit of Bible and symbols of the seasons

Postlude

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**Ministers*: All the people***

***Readers:***  *Pat Flockhart, Trish Groves, Grace Johnstone, Catherine Macdonald,*

*Karen Neumegen, Cathy Porter*

**Organist:**  *David Russell* **Choir**

*Please join us for a time of fellowship and friendship in the Community Centre next door over a cup of tea or coffee,*

**DIARY**

**SUNDAY 16** **PENTECOST 7** *Winter School Holidays End*

 **10a.m. St. Andrew’s Wellspring celebrate Matariki**

 **Matawhero service in Hall**

Monday 17 9.00am Walking Group

 9.30am Matawhero Gardening

Tuesday 18 10.00am Open Door All welcome

Wednesday 199.45am mainly music

 2.30pm **Finance Committee**

Thursday 203.30pm Dunblane Service tbc

 3.30pm Kid’s Café

Friday 21 1.00pm Choir rehearsal

Saturday 22 8am-noon Car Boot Sale

**SUNDAY 23** **PENTECOST 8 Hymn & favourite Bible passages**

 **10.00am St Andrew’s**

 **Matawhero– no service**

3.00pm Sea of Faith

**Note:** The offering is now received at the door as we enter. If you miss noticing this, you may place a retiring offering in the offering boxes at the door as you leave.

**Please remember** donations for the Love basket. Breakfast cereals very welcome

**The Sunshine Service** are **desperate** for drivers and assistants. If you or someone you know could give a few hours a week please phone 867 2905 8am-12.

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| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 16 July Wellspring | **Matawhero**Marie Burgess**St Andrew’s** Wellspring | **Alvin Hall**Jenny LawtonLinda Savage | Val HallTrish Kwak | S: Hans KwakV: AlanC: Hans |
| 23 July Hymn and Bible passage service | **Matawhero**No service**St Andrew’s** Marion Goodwin | **Seton Clare**Pat SmithCathy Porter | Ruth McLennanPat Flockhart | S: Hans KwakV: DonC: Don |

*St Andrew’s Church and Matawhero Historic Church: 176 Cobden Street 4010*

***Office: 06 868 5513******Hours 10-12 Tuesday – Friday***

standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz[www.standrewsgis.org.nz](http://www.standrewsgis.org.nz)

For all Pastoral care needs please contact one of the committee members:

Jenny Lawton  06 868 4268; Ruth McLennan 021 02704867; Jan Gordon 0211836008

Annette Ormiston 0275535028

Mindful Prayer contact Margaret Graham ph. 021 026 03990 or email m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz