

p GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Matawhero Church – Church Lane

St Andrew's Church and Community Centre:

176 Cobden Street, Gisborne

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

24 November 2019

Reign of Christ

Christmas Unwrapped



There is an old adage that goes “’Tis far better to give than to receive”, and no time of the year is this more poignant than at Christmas time.

But who gave us the magic that is Christmas, and how did it come to be a season for celebration, compassion and giving, when old records dictate that it was once a simple pagan festival, and Father Christmas was a saint?

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.

Please feel free to sit for the hymns if that is more comfortable for you

BOLDED WORDS are for congregational response.

Prelude

Welcome, News and Information

Cathy Porter

Call for Silence

Introit and entry of the Bible and Candle, representing the light of Christ among us

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.

*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.*

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,

Call to Worship

Cathy Porter

Leader: In the beginning was the Word

**All: and the Word was with God
and the Word was God**

Leader: He was with God in the Beginning

All: Through Him all things were made

Leader: In him was life and that life was the light for all people

All: In the beginning was Wisdom

Leader: and Wisdom was with God
and Wisdom was God.

All: She was in the beginning with God

Leader: All things came into being through her.

All: In her was life and the life was the light for all people

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not
overcome it

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world

Leader: Wisdom is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the
working of God, and an image of God's goodness. (Wisdom 7:26)

All: Praise God who sends us the light of heaven.

***Hymn:**

CH4 112 Moscow

**God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

**Saviour, who came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
Speed forth your flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**

**Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far wide
let there be light.**

Christmas and Light

Karen Neumegen

Candle lighting

Catherine Macdonald

Choir:

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark
And take our fears away

**Readings Genesis 1:1-3
 John 8: 12, 12: 36**

Karen Neumegen

Anthem: People look East

CH4 281

People, look East. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, thou ye long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
He for fledging time has chosen
People look East and sing today:
Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Christmas and Giving – Family Time

Raewyn Hannah

Anthem Canticle of the Gift

Christmas and Traditions

Gwenda Crawshaw

***Hymn:**

**Praise we the God who made all beauty
for all our senses to enjoy:**

**give we our humble thanks and duty
that simple pleasures never cloy:
praise we the God who made all beauty
for all our senses to enjoy.**

**Praise God who makes our life a pleasure,
sending us things which glad our eyes;
thanks to the One who gives us leisure,
that in our heart sweet thoughts may rise;
praise God who makes our life a pleasure,
sending us things which glad our eyes.**

**Praise God who by a simple flower
lifts up our hearts to things above;
thanks to the one who gives us power
to find a friend to know and love:
praise God who by a simple flower
lifts up our hearts to things above.**

Christmas and Carols

Grace Johnstone

***Hymn:**

CH4 294

**On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.**

**Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?**

**All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
*Glory to God, on earth be peace,
Goodwill to all shall never cease!***

Prayers of the People

Gwenda Crawshaw

Leader: Jesus the light of the world,
Response: Love came down at Christmas.

Offering:

Cathy Porter

**Doxology:
Come to this Christmas singing!
Come to this birthday, bringing
gifts from our country's treasure
beauty of shell and stone.
Wisdom the old have taught us,
laughter the young have brought us
love to surround a manger,
making this Child our own.**

Christmas and the Virgin Birth

Pat Flockhart

Anthem *O Viridissima* – Hildegard

Christmas and the Crib

Trish Groves

***Hymn:** Tell out my soul ***Woodlands* CH4 286**

**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.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's Name!
Make known God's might, the deeds God's arm has done;
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;
God's holy Name – the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word!
Firm is God's promise, and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

Blessing:

Pat Flockhart

The manger of course seems empty,
but no! it is waiting
and as we await the re-enactment of the Christmas story
let us go in peace and expectation with
the wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor to guide us,
the strength of the Mighty God to uphold us,
the love of the Everlasting Father to embrace us
and may peace from
the Prince of Peace be upon us.

All: Sing 3-fold **Amen** during which Bible and Candle Exit

Postlude

Ministers: *All the people*

Transitional Minister: *Rev Mary Petersen* **Leaders:** *Cathy Porter, Grace Johnstone,
Gwenda Crawshaw, Karen Neumegen, Pat Flockhart, Raewyn Hannah, Trish Groves*

Director of Music: *Catherine Macdonald* **Organ:** *David Russell*

Choir

Sunday	Reader	Door & Team	Morning Tea	Sound Visual
24 November	Lynnor Cooke	<u>Alvin Hall</u> Dianne Burrows Jean Hillyard	Gwenda Gray Paulina Melief	S: Hans Kwak V: Colin Matthews
1 December	Bob Bos	<u>Pat Smith</u> Jenny Lawton Marilyn Matthews	Jan Gordon Pat Flockhart	S: Pete Cowley V: Mike Willis

NOTICES

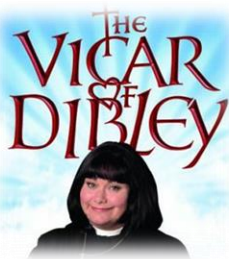
November	24	2.00pm	Vicar of Dibley - Lawson Field Theatre. Meet at theatre from 1.30pm
Monday	25	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	26	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	27	9.45am	mainly music
Thursday	28	2.00pm	Leighton House Rest home Service
Friday	29	1.00pm	Choir practise
Saturday	30	5.30pm start	ST ANDREW'S DAY CELEBRATION DINNER (Hall)

DECEMBER

Sunday	1	9.00 am 10.30am	Matawhero Communion Service St Andrew's Worship Service
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ADVANCE NOTICES

December 4th Pastoral Care Meeting 12 noon in lounge



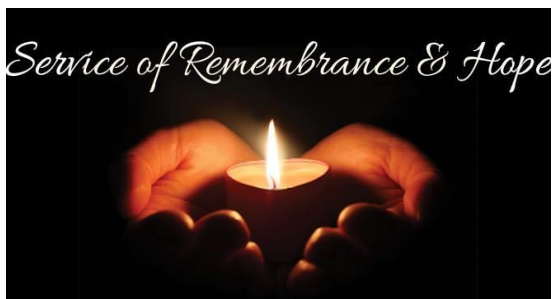
TODAY!

People who have already bought tickets to the Vicar of Dibley, please get your tickets from Jill Wallis at the Theatre. Jill will be there from 1.30pm this afternoon.

Monday December 9th and 16th

Advent Studies in the lounge starting at 5.30pm.

Rev Mary Petersen



REMEMBERED AT CHRISTMAS

**A special service
at Matawhero Church
Wednesday 11th December
at 7.00 pm**



ST ANDREWS DINNER
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30th

from 5.30 pm in the hall –
fun & entertainment provided

\$10 pp payable in advance
– numbers attending no later than
TOMORROW (Monday)

****essential for catering purposes****

A clipboard will be available after church
for names & numbers attending
(Cash/cheque or please or pay online).
The clipboard will also be available in the
office.

