

**Gisborne Presbyterian Parish welcomes you to  
St Andrew's Church**

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

**Sunday 8 December 2019 at 10.30 a.m.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**



**May God bless, inspire and challenge you  
and give you strength.**

*Please stay for morning tea in the church lounge*

**Worship leader:** *Rev Mary Petersen*

**Organist:** *Paul Pollock*

**Reader:** *Jean Robinson*

**Director of Music:** *Catherine Macdonald*

**St Andrew's Choir**

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

*We gather together as the people of God*

**Welcome ... notices ...**

*We spend some moments in silence to prepare ourselves to worship*

**Introit:** *Please remain seated but join in singing with the choir*

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be,  
with God as our Father, we're one family,  
let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

*Sy Miller and Jill Jackson*

**Call to worship**

In this season of Advent, we celebrate wonder  
as we share in faith and community.

**We give thanks for life and light.**

Praise the Lord.

**We are here to praise God together.**

We seek the peace of God in our lives  
And for our community.

**May our lives be candles of peace,  
May we light up our world and prepare the way.  
May God's glory fill the whole world.**

As we worship God together today  
May we be aware of wisdom in the words of Scripture,  
And contemporary insights in story and song,  
**May we hear God's word of peace today.**

**Sing:** CH4 284 Hope is a candle v.1 and 2

**Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,  
never consumed, though it burns through the years;  
dim in the daylight of power and privilege –  
when they are gone, hope will shine on.**

**Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,  
threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed.  
Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows –  
violence and force their dead-end course**

**A Christian World Service Partner Story of Hope from South India**  
Protect water, give life

### **Lighting the Candles of Hope and Peace in the Advent Wreath**

Gracious God, we come to you for peace.  
Where there is division, disunity, discouragement and despair  
**We turn to you to overcome.**  
For those who seek justice and safety  
**We look to you to protect.**  
For the relentless pursuit of your peace  
**We light the candles of hope and peace.**  
**Amen**

**Sing:** AA 155 Where mountains rise to open skies  
*The choir will sing the first verse  
and then the congregation joins in for v. 2 – 5*

Where mountains rise to open skies  
Your name, O God, is echoed far,  
From island beach to kauri's reach,  
In water's light, in lake and star.

**Your people's heart, your people's part,  
Be in our caring for this land,  
For faith to flower, for aroha  
To let each other's mana stand.**

**From broken word, from conflict stirred,  
From lack of vision, set us free  
To see the line of your design,  
To feel creation's energy.**

**Your love be known, compassion shown,  
That every child have equal scope:  
In justice done, in trust begun  
Shall be our heritage and hope.**

**Where mountains rise to open skies  
Your way of peace distil the air,  
Your spirit bind all humankind,  
One covenant of life to share!**

*We listen to and engage with the Word of God*

**Congregational story time:**    *Peace*

**Sing:** CH4 312 Away in a manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from on high,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

**Readings:** Isaiah 11: 1 – 4a. 9-10    Good News Bible    *Jean Robinson*  
Matthew 1: 18 – 25

For wisdom in the Word of old  
For contemporary insights and understandings  
For the Word made flesh in a baby – and in us  
**We thank God.**

**Sing:** CH4 295 Who would think that what was needed

**Who would think that what was needed  
to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army,  
proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
that a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.**

**Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
such a place as none would reckon  
hosts a holy helpless thing.  
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers  
watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.**

**Centuries of skill and science  
span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether,  
with such progress, we improve  
while the human lot we ponder,  
lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.**

**Reflection: A DREAM, A NAME and A BIRTH**

- *Joseph's story*
- *confusion, fear, faith and faithfulness*
- *taking peaceful action even when you do not understand*
- *Emmanuel – GOD IS WITH US*

*We respond to God*

**Prayers of the People**

adapted from words of Bronwyn Angela White in  
*Something new to say – words of spirit, faith and celebration for  
Advent and Christmas*

We give thanks for this season of celebration  
and remembering when, each year  
we pause to make a small space for wonder in our lives  
to let in a baby-sized gleam of hope  
**to watch the stars bursting in the sky  
and share the communion  
of wine and bread and being together  
the gifts of receiving and giving.**

We hold the mystery in our hearts  
**and give thanks for renewal and togetherness,  
for all that is fresh and good and loving in our lives.**

We hold in our hearts those for whom this is a time of sadness  
Our hearts go out to all who have lost loved ones;  
the lonely, the homeless, the bereaved.  
**Despite the pain, may hope be born in them again.**

We give thanks for the angels who sing to us  
**the families who nurture us  
the stars that guide us**  
wise ones, shepherds and kaumatua  
who show us the way.

**We give thanks that we can put down our cares  
our gifts and responsibilities, our tributes and concern,  
and for this moment  
we're engulfed in love:  
Love born in us this day.**

**We sing as a prayer** CH4 721 We lay our broken world v. 1,3,4,5,6  
Tune Veni Spiritus CH4 596

- 1. We lay our broken world  
in sorrow at your feet,  
haunted by hunger, war, and fear,  
oppressed by power and hate.**
  
- 3 We bring our broken towns,  
our neighbours hurt and bruised;  
you show us how old pain and wounds  
for new life can be used.**
  
- 4 We bring our broken loves,  
friends parted, families torn;  
then in your life and death we see  
that love must be reborn.**
  
- 5 We bring our broken selves,  
confused and closed and tired;  
then through your gift of healing grace  
new purpose is inspired.**
  
- 6 Come Spirit, on us breathe,  
with life and strength anew;  
find in us love, and hope, and trust,  
and lift us up to you.**

**Offering** ... and dedication of the offering and ourselves

*We sing as the offering is carried down the aisle:*



**Sing:** CH4 809 to 808 Praise God, the source of life

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;  
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;  
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame:  
All glory, honour to God's name.**

**We pray together:**

**God of peace, we offer these gifts to you  
And ask that you will bless their use.  
We offer ourselves to serve you  
And ask for your blessing as we share your peace. Amen**

*We are in communion with God and each other*

### **Advent Communion service**

By the grace of God we are all invited to share  
in this act of communion.  
This is the Lord's table. All are welcome here.  
You are welcome here.

Emmanuel. **God is with us.**

*We share the peace of God with those seated close to us.*

We come here to do what Jesus told his disciples to do :  
we remember, we thank God and we are enabled to go on  
in the power of God's Holy Spirit.  
In the symbolic imagery of spiritual food  
we receive encouragement, strength and assurance  
through the grace of God.

*Let us affirm our faith together:*

In faith, Joseph took comfort from a dream,  
Embracing complex, reconstituted,  
Extended family relationships.

**This faith might reshape our preconceptions,  
Birthing new ways of being whanau.**

Faith is relationship and way of life,

**Caring for the vulnerable,**

**Casting out demons of self-doubt and despair.**

This is our faith,

**Living with uncertainty yet acting with confidence,**

Walking with the Spirit of God to the heart of everything:

**God in us, now – and here.**

We praise the God who is known to us in the breaking of bread,  
the God who shares our suffering and our joy.

We are surrounded by God's love

and by a great cloud of witnesses to God's love.

We give thanks for people of the past and present  
whose selfless acts of love continue to inspire us.

We thank God for all those who have had influence on our lives  
and taught us through word and example how to be followers of  
Jesus.

We are part of that great communion of saints.

*Let us pray together a version of the prayer that Jesus taught his followers:*

Loving God in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo throughout the universe

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth

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 testing, 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 forever. Amen

*We continue in prayer:*

Gracious God, it was as a baby that you came to us,

a child in a manger – smiling and crying,

staring out in wonder and sleeping in contentment.

**As we celebrate this birth once again,**

**May we too be filled with wonder and contentment.**

In a world of chaos and busy-ness,

calm our hearts and minds to this sacred moment.

We thank you for the example of Mary,

a frightened teenage mother who dared to say yes to you.

**We thank you for Joseph, a confused father who learned to trust in your mysterious and wonderful ways.**

We thank you for Jesus, child, youth and adult – who helps

us understand that you are always in this world with us, and who

offers hope at times when we feel lonely or lost.

As we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, so we commemorate his time among us.

We remember how, on the night he was betrayed, Jesus sat at supper with his disciples and said ‘remember me’.

So as Christ did we ask you to bless these symbols of life, these gifts of your grace and we share them.

In so doing we remember that you are with us always.

**Loving God, may we experience through your life in us  
The strength we need and the love you want us to share.**

Gracious God, come to us in the broken bread  
– **nourish us.**

In the sharing of the cup be our joy  
and our courage for life ahead.

**May we be fed by your love and set free by your power  
and may we go from this place  
refreshed and renewed by your spirit.**

In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Even when the world rejected Jesus, on the very night  
that he was betrayed, he continued to care for others  
and to feed them. This was God's love in action.

Jesus invited all to eat with him, especially those who  
felt rejected and alone. Jesus invites us to eat with him now.

Jesus sat with his friends and shared a simple meal.

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread  
and shared it with his friends as a symbol of his life  
so generously given for all the world.

He said "take, eat - and remember me".

In the same way Jesus took the cup.

A body was broken, a life poured out with the living  
hope of life, healing, justice and peace for all.

This cup is the symbol of the new covenant between  
you and God.

Jesus said: Whenever you drink it, remember me.

We take these symbols of bread and the cup and  
do what Jesus asked of his followers.

We remember Jesus.

We are in communion with God and each other.

We who are many are one body  
**for we all share the one bread.**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts be in Christ and Christ in us.**

Please eat the bread when you receive it  
for we each need to accept our own responsibility  
for our relationship with God  
but please hold the cup  
so that we may drink together  
as a symbol of our unity in Christ.

...

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Come let us drink together.

*some moments of silence*

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**For the power of Christ's love in our lives,  
For the promise of a world renewed,  
We give our thanks and praise,  
Most gracious God to you. Amen**

We go blessed by the Spirit of God

**Sing:** CH4 301

**Hark the herald angels sing  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with the angelic host proclaim  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'**

*Refrain*      *Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

**Christ, by highest heaven adored.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail, the Incarnate Deity,  
pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!.....*Hark! the herald...***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth: .....*Hark! the herald...***

**Blessing:**

Go with peace into this Advent season.  
Go to live in the power of the Spirit of God.  
May God's grace and peace flow through you,  
So that your life will be a blessing to others.  
God loves you. God will bless you. **Amen**

**Sing: Amen, Amen, A...men.**

**REVEREND MARY  
PETERSEN**

is running 2 Advent study classes  
starting

**Monday 9 December**  
**at 5.30 pm**

in the lounge (community hall).

The second class will be on

**Monday 16 December at 5.30 pm**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Door &amp; Team</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>	<b>Sound Visual</b>
<b>8 December</b> <i>Communion</i>	Jean Robinson	<b><u>Don</u></b> <b><u>McConnochie</u></b> Sarah McC. Gwenda Crawshaw	Trish Kwak Marilyn Matthews	S: Hans Kwak V: Colin Matthews
<b>15 December</b>	Dianne Burrows	<b><u>Chrissie Parker</u></b> Joan McKay Jean Hillyard	Danielle & Sabine	S: Peter Cowley V: Alan Groves



## NOTICES

Monday	9	9.00am 9.30am 5.30pm	Walking Group Gardening at Matawhero Church Advent Studies – Mary (lounge)
Tuesday	10	10.00am  1.30pm	Open Door Christmas – bring a can. Last for the year. Rymans Service – All welcome
Wednesday	11	9.45am 7.00pm	mainly music last one for this year Matawhero Church <i>'Remembered at Christmas'</i>
Thursday	12	5.30pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>
Friday	13	1.00pm	Choir Practise
Saturday	14	8.00am	Car Boot Sale & Cake Stall (last one for December)
Sunday	15	9.00am 10.30am 7.00pm	<b>Matawhero Worship Service</b> <b>St Andrew's Worship Service</b> <b>Combined Service at St Andrew's</b> <b>– Lessons &amp; Carols</b>

7pm Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>



**Interdenominational Carol Service  
& Readings at St Andrew's Church.**

*\* Please bring a plate for supper \**

**Combined Churches Choir practices in St Andrew's  
church on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm & Friday  
13<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm**



**If you would like to donate a Christmas present to go  
under our Christmas tree in the church, the gifts will be  
given to 'Family Works' for their  
families in need. Donations of food for  
the Love Basket will be welcome before  
Christmas.**



**REMEMBERED AT CHRISTMAS**

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

*Service of Remembrance & Hope*



*All welcome*

**Matawhero  
Church**  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup>  
7.00 pm

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**CAROLS IN THE VINES**

Community Christmas Carol Singalong Bushmere Estate, The Vines

**Wednesday 18th December 2019**

Gates open at 5:30pm. Carols begin at 6:30pm

Bring a picnic - food also available for purchase. Admission \$5

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**\*\*CAKE STALL THIS SATURDAY\*\*** - Christmas baking  
needed for our last stall for this year, or donated baking  
ingredients very welcome.



**\*\*MARK IN YOUR DIARY FOR JANUARY 2020\*\***



**St Andrew's Lunchtime Concert Series**

featuring

**Ian Miles British organist & Friends**

**Wednesday 15 January 12.30 2020**

Ian is back in Gisborne visiting family,  
and presents a fourth biennial concert  
on the St Andrew's organ, with local performers.

Presented by the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish  
assisted by Manjorie Redstone Trust, J.N. Williams Memorial  
Trust and H.B. Williams Turanga Trust.

Complimentary Tea/Coffee at door. Bring your lunch. Admission Free.  
Donation or Koha to performers.

176 Cobden Street

*Catherine Macdonald*

**Director of Music**

**Gisborne Presbyterian Parish**