

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

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Sunday 15 December 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE

on the third Sunday of Advent -

JOY TO ALL.



**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: *Dianne Burrows*

Prayers: *Raewyn Hannah*

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*

AA 23 ii Come now, Lord Jesus v. 1 and 5.

**Come Lord Jesus, enter our Christmas
be to us no stranger in this new-made manger.**

**Come, gift and token, bread to be broken –
star and sign still point you, myrrh will yet anoint you.**

Call to worship

The desert will rejoice

from Isaiah 35

and flowers will bloom in the wilderness.

The desert will sing and shout for joy

Everyone will see the splendour of the Lord.

Hands that are tired and knees that tremble with weakness

will receive strength from God.

Tell everyone who is discouraged

Be strong. Do not be afraid. God is with you.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear,

the lame will leap and dance,

and those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

They will travel by the Road of Holiness.

**They will reach Jerusalem with gladness,
singing and shouting for joy.**

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

We give thanks for deep joy in our lives.

Praise the Lord.

We are here to praise God together.

May the way we live bring joy to others,
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 joy today.

Sing: CH4 284 Hope is a candle v.1, 2 and 4

**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.**

**Joy is a candle of mystery and laughter,
mystery of light that is born in the dark;
laughter at hearing the voice of an angel,
ever so near, casting out fear.**

A Christian World Service Partner Story of Hope from Nicaragua

Protect water, the essence of survival

Lighting the Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy in the Advent Wreath

Gracious God,
for foundations of joy and delight in the Lord
We give you thanks and praise.
For situations where it is painful to rejoice
We ask for your wisdom.
For the relentless pursuit of your joy
We light the candles of hope, peace and joy.
Amen

Sing: CH4 331 Unto us a boy is born v. 1, 2, 4, 5

**Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.**

**Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
and the very beasts could see
that he all folk surpasses,
that he all folk surpasses.**

**Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us.**

**Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while we sing our songs with glee
and rend the air asunder,
and rend the air asunder.**

We listen to and engage with the Word of God

Congregational story time: *Joy in the nativity stories*
happiness, blessing, excitement, celebration
Luke 1: 5 – 25, 57 - 80

The choir sings: COC 25 Greetings, little child of Bethlehem

**Greetings, little child of Bethlehem!
Greetings, to the child in ev'ry mother's arms!
Welcome to each other, and all we wish to honour
Greetings, little child of Bethlehem!**

**Bless the one who came to planet Earth:
He grew up and spread Good News to all he met.
All the children loved him, he talked with them and held them,
Bless the one who came to Planet Earth.**

**Happy Christmas, child of Bethlehem!
Happy Christmas all around the world today!
Greetings to each culture, and every living creature,
Happy Christmas, child of Bethlehem!**

Readings: Matthew 11: 2 –10 Good News Bible *Dianne Burrows*

For wisdom in the Word of old
For new insights and understandings
For the Word reborn in us
We thank God.

Sing: CH4 277 Hark the glad sound v. 1, 2, 5

**Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart exult with joy,
and every voice with song!**

**He comes, the prisoners to relieve,
In Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**Our glad hosannas Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's exalted arches ring
with thy most honoured name.**

Reflection: SURPRISED BY JOY

- *Zechariah and Elizabeth - suspicious of joy?*
- *John preparing the way - and seeing clearly*
- *are you prepared to be surprised by joy, to nurture wonder,
and to dance the Way that Jesus taught?*

We respond to God

The choir sings: HS 149 When the child is at the centre

When the child is at the centre, when the babe is in the stall,
when the adult nurtures wonder, when the carols warm us all,
then the fragments come together and the vision shines as one
in each particle of being, in each daughter and each son.

When the angels come as people, when the wise ones dwell inside,
when the shepherds are the workers, when the babe our inner guide,
then our Christmas comes each moment that our minds perceive God's grace,
every time our hearts are opened we see Christ within each face.

Sing and dance the Christmas story, celebrate the Child's great feast,
be the festive wine and dancing, be the joy that grows like yeast,
fill the heart with thankful praises, clear the mind of dismal thought,
celebrate the Christmas wisdom, dance the Way that Jesus taught.

Prayers of the People

Raewyn Hannah

We sing as a prayer CoC 40 Star child v. 1 and 5

**Star-Child, earth-Child
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod.**

*Refrain This year, this year,
let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive!*

**Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
star of stars that shine.**

*Refrain This year, this year,
let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes
for everyone, everyone alive!*

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 joy 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 joy. Amen**

We go blessed by the Spirit of God

Sing: CH4 320 Joy to the world

**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.**

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

Blessing:

Continue with joy into this Advent season.
Go to live in the power of the Spirit of God.
May God's grace and joy 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
in the lounge (community hall).

The second class will be on

Monday 16 December
at 5.30 pm

Sunday	Reader	Door & Team	Morning Tea	Sound Visual
15 December	Dianne Burrows	<u>Chrissie Parker</u> Joan McKay Jean Hillyard	Danielle & Sabine	S: Peter Cowley V: Alan Groves
22 December	Colleen Skuse	<u>Seton Clare</u> Pat Smith Cathy Porter	Jean Hillyard Val McGreevy	S: Peter Cowley V: Don McC

NOTICES

Sunday	15	7.00pm	Combined Service at St Andrew's Lessons & Carols
Monday	16	9.00am 5.30pm	Walking Group Advent Studies – Mary (lounge)
Wednesday	18	5.30pm	Carols in the Vines
Thursday	19	3.30pm 4.30pm	Dunblane Rest Home Service Finance Meeting
Friday	20	1.00pm	Choir Practise
Sunday	22	10.30am	St Andrew's Worship Service & Celebrations
		2.00pm	No Service at Matawhero Carols at Dunblane – All welcome

THIS EVENING 7pm Sunday December 15th



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

Please bring a plate for supper

.....
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. Please label your gifts with age, girl or boy. Thank you



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 Children Free.

***Costume Prizes for children -*

*nativity & Christmas story characters***

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



St Andrew's Luncktime Concert Series

featuring

Jan 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 Marjorie 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.