

**GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH  
WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S GISBORNE  
Sunday 22 December 2019 at 10.30 a.m.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**

Luke 1:39-56  
Mary visits Elizabeth



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

*Please stay for morning tea in the lounge*

**Worship Leader:** Rev Mary Petersen  
**Organist:** David Russell  
**Reader:** Colleen Skuse  
**Director of Music:** Catherine Macdonald  
**St Andrew's Choir**

*We gather together as the people of God*

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

*Time of silence to prepare ourselves for worship*

*The Bible is carried into the church during the singing of the introit.  
Everyone is invited to join in the singing*

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

**Come now, 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:**

GOD IS LOVE

**God is with us.**

God is for us.

**Thanks be to God.**

This season of Advent is about waiting and preparation.  
We wait because to wait is to expect something more.  
To wait is to expect that the story of God's love and peace  
might enter our hearts and our world in new ways.

**God is with us. God is for us.**

God's love is seen in acts of kindness,  
voices for peace, and movements for justice.

These are small twinkling signs that real love, hope,  
peace and joy are in the world.

May we be open to welcoming love in all aspects of our lives.

**We praise God and rejoice in God's love.**

## **Prayer**

God, we thank you for the miracle of love  
**and for the gift of life.**

Open our eyes to your ways among us.

**Open our ears to hear your word for us.**

Open our hearts to welcome your love for us.

**Open our minds to understand what your love means to us.**

**Amen.**

**Sing:** CH 4 284 Hope is a candle v. 1,2, 4, 3

**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.**

**Love is a candle whose light makes a circle,  
where every face is the face of a friend.  
Widen the circle by sharing and giving –  
God's holy dare: love everywhere.**

## **Lighting the Advent candle of LOVE**

We remember the voice of God's messengers  
calling us to be bearers of love in a troubled world.

**We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.**

**May they light the way for us as we make love our story.**

May our lives be candles of hope, peace, joy and love,

**May we light up our world and prepare the way.**

### ***A Christian World Service Story of Partnership***

**WATER - providing a practical message of hope**

Christian World Service partners with the ACT Alliance  
in Indonesia providing safe water after natural disasters.

**Sing:** CH 4 519 Love Divine, all loves excelling

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:  
thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

**Celebrations Time:** your opportunity to share with the congregation  
your special news, including birthdays and anniversaries

**Sing: The Celebrations Song**

**Celebrations today  
May God bless you we pray  
Live for Jesus dear people  
May he guide you each day**

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

**Congregational story time:**

*We think about a special birth in Bethlehem  
more than 2000 years ago*

The choir sings: Come with me to Bethlehem

Come with me to Bethlehem  
And see the Christ child there.  
Hark the song – the angels singing  
Music fills the air.  
Peace on earth.

Joy to all.  
Hear the angels sing.  
Christ the babe of Bethlehem  
Is Christ the Lord and King.

*and pictures that tell the story*  
from *Christmas* by Jan Pienkowski,  
recreated in fabric by Hillary Brown Aitken

**Sing:** CH 4 312 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.**

**Reading:** Luke 1: 26 – 56 *Good News Bible* - Colleen Skuse

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

**Sing:** CH4 286 Tell out my soul

**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!**

**Reflection: AMAZING LOVE**

- *Mary's story and the Magnificat*
- *God's unique Christmas gift and blessing*
- *Are you ready for the gift of love to transform you?*
- *Lives changed with signs of love*

We respond to God

**The choir sings:** HS 103 No I've never seen an angel

No, I've never seen an angel with lovely golden wings  
harping on about a message from a lofty king of kings.  
I've never talked to Gabriel or stepped upon a star,  
or seen Saint Peter at the gates, not even from afar.

But I've held your hand and heard your voice,  
and seen your signs of love  
in the people all around me every day:  
when the hungry ones are fed, when the sick are put to bed,  
and the hopeless find there is another way.

No, I've never walked on water, or stilled a raging wave;  
my water never turns to wine, my porkers all behave.  
My loaves and fishes feed just me, my words don't seem to heal;  
the dumb don't speak at my command, the numb aren't helped to feel.

But I've sensed the real live miracles  
in lives that have been changed  
in the people all around me every day:  
when despair is put to flight, and the darkness turns to light,  
and the helpless find the strength to walk their way.

Yes, I've heard the old, old stories, I've sung the ancient songs;  
I've celebrated sacraments, I'm sure that I belong  
in the line-up of disciples that began by Galilee,  
rippled over ocean waters, and was handed on to me.

For the ancient stories come to life,  
if I've got eyes to see,  
in the people all around me every day:  
when the seeds of peace are growing, the justice river's flowing,  
new life abounds along Christ's open way.



## Prayers of the People

*Beginning with* a prayer by Harry Undy

### **God of Promise and Delivery**

God of the busy family and the lonely individual,  
God of feast and famine,  
All life is your gift and your concern  
And in all life your will is for our good.  
For those who can see angels:  
The heavenly choir brings your message;  
For those who can hear their neighbours:  
The shepherds and the wise men,  
the mother and the innkeeper speak for you;  
for those who understand the silence of their own hearts:  
you come by night and by day  
to comfort and to call your people.

In faith we bring our concerns to you,  
That girls and boys, men and women may be set free  
To sing your glory, until the earth echoes with praise.

,,, SOME MOMENTS OF SILENCE  
TO BRING OUR CONCERNS TO GOD ...

*and a prayer adapted from Bronwyn Angela White:*  
LOVE BORN IN US THIS DAY

We give thanks for this season of celebration and remembering.  
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.  
including those at Whakaari White Island,  
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 Kaumātua  
who show us the way

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

*and we sing as a prayer:*

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

809 to 808 Praise God

**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 love, 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 love. Amen**

***We go blessed by the Spirit of God***

**Sing: AA9 Carol our Christmas**

**Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas;  
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.  
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ child,  
warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.**

**Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,  
water and river and lure of the beach.  
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,  
sing a nativity summer can reach!**

**Shepherds and mustersers move over hillsides,  
finding not angels, but sheep to be shorn;  
wise ones make journeys, whatever the season,  
searching for signs of the truth to be born.**

**Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,  
made in the moment a woman gives birth;  
hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,  
everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.**

**Blessing:**

**May you feel safe and sustained by the love of God.  
May the peace and joy of the Christ child root and grow in your heart.  
May you be inspired by the Spirit to live the way of Jesus.  
God loves you. God will bless you. Amen**

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

*We need to make sure we hear the voices of the people throughout the world crying out for food, water and justice, and respond in ways that give life and hope. In this way we can help bring love to the world. Donations to the **Christmas Appeal of Christian World Service** will provide water tanks and other resources, as well as training local people with what they need to improve their livelihood and become more resilient. Leaflets about Christian World Service, projects it is involved with, and how you can help, are available in the foyer*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Door &amp; Team</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>	<b>Sound Visual</b>
<b>22 December</b>	Colleen Skuse	<u><b>Seton Clare</b></u> Pat Smith Cathy Porter	Jean Hillyard Val McGreevy	<b>S:</b> Peter Cowley <b>V:</b> Don McC
<b>24 December Evening 11.30pm</b>	Gwenda Crawshaw	<b>Alvin Hall</b>		<b>S:</b> Peter Cowley No Screen
<b>25 December 9.00 am</b>	Jenny Lawton	Jenny & Peter Lawton		<b>S:</b> Peter Cowley No Screen
<b>29 December</b>	Pauline Ross	<u><b>Linda Savage</b></u> Joan McKay Dianne Burrows	Ruth McLennan Robin Woods	<b>S:</b> Hans Kwak No Screen

**\*24<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.00 pm Christmas Eve Service at Matawhero\***

**\*\*CAROLS AT DUNBLANE THIS AFTERNOON HAS BEEN CANCELLED\*\***

**NOTICES**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St Andrew's Worship Service &amp; Celebrations</b>
			No Service at Matawhero
		<del>2.00pm</del>	<del>Carols at Dunblane</del> — CANCELLED
Monday	23	9.00am	Walking Group
<u>Tuesday</u>			
<b>Christmas Eve</b>		<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Matawhero Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>		<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>St Andrew's Christmas Eve Service</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>			
<b>Christmas Day</b>		<b>9.00am</b>	<b>St Andrew's Christmas Day Service</b>
			No Service at Matawhero
Thursday	26	2.00pm	Leighton House Rest home Service
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St Andrew's Service</b>
			No Service at Matawhero
Monday	30	9.00am	Walking Group

## JANUARY 2020

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Matawhero Combined Picnic with St David's</b> No Service at St Andrew's
Monday	6	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	7	10.00am	Open Door resumes at Val & Alvin's – 109 Ormond Rd
Saturday	11	8.00am	Car Boot Sale
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St Andrew's Communion &amp; Covenant Service</b> <b>Guardian Angel koha</b> No Service at Matawhero



***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 Marjorie Redstone Trust, J.N. Williams Memorial Trust and H.B. Williams Turanga Trust.



**Bible 2020, the world's largest Bible reading campaign is only 18 days away.**

If you haven't heard about Bible 2020, here it is in a nutshell - Christians all

over the world will download a smartphone app and receive a Scripture passage each day. Participants will be able to record themselves speaking the passage out loud and upload it to the global video wall. They can then watch people from all over the world reading that same passage in their heart language. This is a unique opportunity to join with thousands of Christians and help cover the whole of God's world with God's Word.

**AND WHAT'S EVEN BETTER IS THAT THE WHOLE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN GISBORNE AT SUNRISE ON JANUARY 1ST!**

We're planning to be there and film the first readings for this global campaign as the sun rises. We will be joined by the campaign founder from the Bible Society of Scotland.

We'd love to see you there to be part of this historic moment.

If you'd like to join us, come down to [Okitu Beach](#). We'll be there from about 5.30am and we'll have BBQ facilities. You can bring your bacon and eggs too and we'll put them on the BBQ.

We'd love to have you join and help us with the Scripture reading. We want to have a strong start to this global campaign with as many people uploading videos of the passage that morning.

If you'd like to come, [email sopie@biblesociety.org.nz](mailto:sopie@biblesociety.org.nz) to let us know so we can bring enough juice for everyone!

**ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY SERVICES FOR  
GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH  
INCLUDING SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS ELSEWHERE.**

*All services and events are led by Rev Mary Petersen unless other names are indicated.*

**Everyone is welcome to all these events**

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 9 December     | 5.30pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Advent Studies in lounge (1 of 2)                                                                        |
| Wednesday 11 December | 7.00pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Matawhero Service <i>'Remembered at Christmas'</i>                                                       |
| Sunday 15 December    | 9.00am<br>10.30am<br>7.00pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Matawhero Worship Service<br>St Andrew's Worship Service<br>Interdenominational Carol Service & Readings |
| Monday 16 December    | 5.30pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Advent Studies in lounge (2 of 2)                                                                        |
| Wednesday 18 December | <i>Carols in the Vines</i> at Bushmere Wines 6.30 p.m. but gates open 5.30 p.m.<br>food available for purchase or bring a picnic. All children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Biblical Christmas stories – angel, shepherd, wise one, Mary, Joseph. |                                                                                                          |
| Sunday 22 December    | St Andrew's 10.30 a.m.<br>Carols at Dunblane Rest Home, Rutene Road 2 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                          |
| Tuesday 24 December   | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>Matawhero 7 p.m. and St Andrew's 11.30 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                          |
| Wednesday 25 December | <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Celebration Service St Andrew's 9 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                          |
| Sunday 29 December    | St Andrew's 10.30 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Rev Petra Barber</i>                                                                                  |
| Sunday 5 January      | Matawhero 10.30 a.m. Epiphany Service and shared lunch outdoors with combined congregations of St Andrew's, Matawhero and St David's                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |
| Sunday 12 January     | St Andrew's 10.30 a.m. including Communion & Covenant Service                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                          |
| Sunday 19 January     | Matawhero 9 a.m. and St Andrew's 10.30 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                          |
| Sunday 26 January     | St Andrew's 10.30 a.m. Worship Service, Celebrations & Congregational Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                          |

