

**GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

Welcomes everyone to this

**Christmas Eve Service at St Andrew's**

11.30 p.m. 24 December 2019



Worship leader: Rev Mary Petersen

Organist: Paul Pollock

Soloist: Gina Hughes

Reader: Gwenda Crawshaw

Director of Music: Catherine Macdonald

*We gather together as the people of God*

## **Welcome**

**Call to Worship:** from Isaiah 7: 14 and 9: 2 and 6, John 1: 2 – 5, 14

A young woman shall conceive and bear a son  
and shall call his name Emmanuel,  
which in Hebrew means “God is with us”.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**  
They lived in a land of shadows but now light is shining on them.

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

He will be our ruler.

He will be called

**“Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.”**

From the very beginning the Word was with God and was God.

**The Word was the Source of Life**

and this life brought light to mankind.

**The light shines in the darkness**

And the darkness has never overcome it.

**The Word became a human being**

And, full of grace and truth, lived among us.

**Glory to God.**

*We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love  
– and the Christ candle*



**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.**

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

**Does it feel like Christmas to you?**

Joy Cowley's poem: *24 December*

**Sing:** CH4 294 On Christmas Night v. 1 and 4

**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.**

**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 and peace to all,  
now and for evermore. Amen'.**

**Congregational Story Time: The Nativity Scene**

**Sing:** CH4 304 O little town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above the deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in the dark street shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

**Reading:** Luke 2: 1 – 7

*Gwenda Crawshaw*

**Sing:** CH4 309 Still the night v. 1 – 3

**Still the night, holy the night!**  
**Sleeps the world; hid from sight,**  
**Mary and Joseph in stable bare**  
**watch o’er the child beloved and fair,**  
**sleeping in heavenly rest,**  
**sleeping in heavenly rest.**

**Still the night, holy the night!**  
**Shepherds first saw the light,**  
**heard resounding clear and long,**  
**far and near, the angel-song,**  
**“Christ the Redeemer is here!”**  
**“Christ the Redeemer is here!”**

**Still the night, holy the night!**  
**Son of God, O how bright**  
**love is smiling from thy face!**  
**Strikes for us now the hour of grace,**  
**Saviour, since thou art born!**  
**Saviour, since thou art born!**

**Reading:** Luke 2: 8 – 14

*Gwenda Crawshaw*

**Sing:** CH4 323 The first nowell v, 1 and 2

**The first Nowell the angel did say**  
**was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:**  
**in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep**  
**on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

***Refrain*** *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*  
*born is the King of Israel.*

**They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

*Refrain*

**Reading:** Luke 2: 15 – 20

*Gwenda Crawshaw*

For the Word that was in the beginning  
For the Word reborn in our hearts,  
For the Word embodied in us  
**We thank 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 angels.....***

**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:**  
*Refrain*

**Reflection: A BABY, SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS ?**

- *familiar story but powerful message*
- *Emmanuel -God is with us always  
through all our joys and challenges*
- *set in historical time, identified in place, but with  
an invitation to wonder and think deeply*
- *what does this story mean to you in 2019?*

*We respond to God*

**Solo:** FFS 12 Dream a dream *Gina Hughes*  
words: Shirley Murray, tune FFS 46 Lullaby by Peter Godfrey

Dream a dream,  
a hopeful dream  
as children do on Christmas Eve,  
imaginings,  
surprising things  
to hold and to believe.



Dream a time  
this Christmas time  
when no-one's hungry or afraid;  
that weapons go  
and harvests grow,  
that friends are met and made.

Dream a peace,  
our planet's peace,  
the greening of the earth at play,  
the holy ground  
where life is found,  
where God has touched the clay.

Dream a gift,  
the Christmas gift  
that changes everything we see:  
the shimmering  
of angel wing,  
the Child, the Mystery.

## **Prayer**

**and we sing as a prayer:** 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*

*We light candles to represent the light of God in our lives*

*We go blessed by the Spirit of God*

**Sing:** CH4 306 O Come all ye faithful v, 1, 3 and 4

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
born the King of angels:**

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
'Glory to God in the highest':**

*Refrain*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;**

**Jesus, to thee be glory given:  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
Refrain**

**Blessing:**

Go out into the night with joy in your hearts.  
Celebrate the mystery of Christmas.  
May the wonders of God's love continue to astound you.  
God is with you always, through joyful and challenging times.  
Glory to God and Joy to the World.  
God bless you. Happy Christmas. **Amen.**

*If you wish to make an offering to support God's Mission through  
Gisborne Presbyterian Parish, there are offering boxes in the  
entrance foyer.*

**OPEN DOOR**



An invitation is extended to anyone  
who would like to come to our home at  
109 Ormond Road for morning tea – commencing at  
10am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.

**Val Hall**

OPEN DOOR RESUMES 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 10.00 AM  
IN THE LOUNGE AT ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY HALL  
ALL WELCOME

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**The church office** will be closed over the Christmas Holiday period and re-opens 22 January. Please phone Rev Mary Petersen 027 2448396 Jenny Parish Clerk 868 4268 for any urgent matters: Emails and phone messages will be cleared regularly.

## SIGNPOST



The next *Signpost* will be published end January - if you have information you want included in that edition, please give it to Liz by 29 January at the latest.

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### NOTICES

Wednesday

**Christmas Day**

**9.00am**

**St Andrew's Christmas Day Service**

No Service at Matawhero

Thursday 26

2.00pm

Leighton House Rest home Service

**Sunday 29**

**10.30am**

**St Andrew's Service**

*Rev Petra Barber*

No Service at Matawhero

Monday 30

9.00am

Walking Group

### JANUARY 2020

**SUNDAY 5**

**10.30am**

**MATAWHERO COMBINED SERVICE AND SHARED LUNCH with St David's & St Andrew's**

Monday 6

9.00am

Walking Group

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**\*\*COME FORWARD COMMUNION ROSTER JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup>**

### JANUARY 12 (2020)

**PAT FLOCKHART**

**SETON CLARE**

Jean Robinson, Gwenda Crawshaw, Jean Hillyard, Lynnor Cooke,