

**GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH
WELCOMES YOU TO CHRISTMAS DAY
CELEBRATION 2019**

9 a.m. 25 December AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



**May God bless, inspire and challenge you
and give you peace**

Worship Leader: *Rev Mary Petersen*

Reader: *Jenny Lawton*

Director of Music: *Catherine Macdonald* **Organist:** *Paul Pollock*

We gather together as the people of God

Welcome

Call to worship: from John 1: 1 – 14

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

In the Word was life and that life was light to the world.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

**On Christmas Day, we celebrate together
this good news of great joy!**

The people who walked in darkness
now live in light.

(Isaiah 9:2)

Good news of great joy!

Oppression and war will not have the last word.

(Isaiah 9: 4-5)

Good news of great joy!

A Saviour is born, who is the Messiah, the Christ.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to all.

(Luke 2:10-11, 14)

As we gather on this special day,

May we open the doors of our hearts and lives

To welcome the strangers and the angels,

To welcome questions and uncertainty

To be catalysts for discovery;

May the love and joy of Christmas

touch the hearts and minds

of all who seek the Light.

Sing: CH4 306 (words from WOV 228 verses 1, 3, 4, 6, 7)
O Come All Ye Faithful

**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.*

**See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:**

Refrain

**Lo, star-led chieftains, wise men,
Christ adoring, offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' devotion**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God, glory 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

We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love
And the CHRIST CANDLE

Light of Love, your moment has come.

We thank you for the hope, peace, joy and love you offer us.

You were born into a world deeply in need of your light.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

May God's light shine on our way
as we make hope, peace, joy and love our story.

Hope is a candle once lit by the prophets,

Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,

Joy is a candle of mystery and laughter,

Love is a candle whose light makes a circle.

Widen the circle by sharing and giving –

God's holy dare: love everywhere.

Christ is the light that the prophets awaited,

Christ is the love and the mystery and laughter –

Candles make way. Christ here today.

We listen to and engage with the Word of God

Sing: Come with me to Bethlehem (twice)

- Words and music by S. L. Jenkins

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.

Congregational story time: *Christmas Gifts*

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.**

Reading: Luke 2: 1 – 20

Jenny Lawton

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 315 Once in Royal David's City v,1,2,3, and 6

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed,
where a mother laid her Baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Reading: Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Jenny Lawton

For the Star that shone to guide the way
For the Light reborn in our hearts
For the Word embodied in us
We thank God

Sing: CH4 324 v. 1,2,3 Angels from the realms of glory

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth;**

Refrain *Come and worship*
Christ, the new-born King.
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flock by night,
God with all is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light;
Refrain

Wise men, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star;
Refrain

Reading: Nativity - a poem by Joy Cowley (*Psalms Down-Under* p. 9)

Solo: O Holy Night

Catherine Macdonald

Reflection: THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

- *Carols, shopping, gifts, families and food OR ... ?*
- *“Angel song ... lifts our hearts and tunes our ears to the harmony of the universe, making us wonder ...”*
- *The shepherd and magi/ wise ones are both within us!*
- *“In the small rough stable of our lives, Christ is born”*

We respond to 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.**

Prayers of the People

Loving God, as we joyfully celebrate Christmas today
we pray for all those who experience little peace.
We think of all who are sad and lonely,
for those who are grieving,
for those who are unwell or in pain,
for all who are in situations of conflict in relationships and families.

God we pray that all hurting people will be
very conscious of your love and strength.
May your healing love dispel all darkness.

We pray too for all who are trying to support
those who are in need of love and care.
May they have your wisdom and discernment
so that they can share your love and strength.
Light of the world, shine in and through our lives.

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

Light of the world, shine in and through our lives.

In the silence we think of those known to us
who have a special need today. ...

God we pray that all in need will be aware
of your love, comfort, strength and peace,
And the light you offer in dark places.

Loving God, help us see where we can be the answer to our prayers and offer your compassion to others in practical ways.

Light of the world, shine in and through our lives.

May we allow the Christ light of love and compassion to work through us.

Light of the world, shine in and through our lives.

As all creation sings for joy,
may we care for earth, sea, and sky in reverence of you.

Light of the world, shine in and through our lives. 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 Emmanuel!....*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:

May God's image grow within you.
May laughter and courage heal you.
May the gospel of love sustain you.
The child of peace is with you.
The Spirit of truth will guide you.
The God of life calls you into the light.
God bless you **Amen**

**If you would like to make an offering to God
for this church to use in mission and ministry,
there are offering boxes at the back of the church.
Thank you**

Acknowledgment:

Some words used in this service come from suggestions in resources provided by Christian World Service, and from Bronwyn Angela White *Something New To Say*, 2018.

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NOTICES

Thursday	26	2.00pm	Leighton House Rest home Service
Sunday	29	10.30am	St Andrew's Service <i>Rev Petra Barber</i> No Service at Matawhero
Monday	30	9.00am	Walking Group

JANUARY SERVICES 2020

SUNDAY	5	10.30am	MATAWHERO COMBINED SERVICE AND SHARED LUNCH with St David's & St Andrew's
SUNDAY	12	10.30am	St Andrew's Communion & Covenant Service
SUNDAY	19	9.00am	Matawhero Church Service
		10.30am	St Andrew's Worship Service
SUNDAY	26	10.30am	St Andrew's Worship Service Celebrations and Congregational Meeting

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.
