

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

**Welcomes you to this Christmas Eve Service
at Matawhero**

7 p.m. 24 December 2019



**Rev Mary Petersen
Organist: Catherine Macdonald
Reader: Bruce Burn**

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 306 O Come all ye faithful v. 1 and 3

**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

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 *Bruce Burn* *Good News Bible*

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 *Bruce Burn* *Good News Bible*

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

**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 shine the infant Light;**

Refrain

Reading: Luke 2: 15 – 20 *Bruce Burn* *Good News Bible*

For wisdom in the Words of Scripture
For contemporary insights in story and song,
For the Word made flesh in a baby - and 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 Emmanuel!**

Refrain:

**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*
- *an invitation to wonder and think deeply*
- ***what does this story mean to you in 2019?***

We respond to God

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

Prayer

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:

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 is an offering
box at the back of the church*

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 7th January, 14th, 21st Jan.

Val Hall

OPEN DOOR RESUMES 28th 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.

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 <i>Rev Petra Barber</i> 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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Wednesday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY Celebration Service
St Andrew's 9 a.m.

Sunday 29 December St Andrew's 10.30 a.m. *Rev Petra Barber*

JANUARY

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 *Come Forward* Communion
& Covenant Service

Sunday 19 January **Matawhero 9 a.m.**
St Andrew's 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 26 January **St Andrew's 10.30 a.m. Worship Service,**
Celebrations & Congregational Meeting

