

**GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH  
WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S GISBORNE**

*Matawhero Church – Church Lane  
St Andrew's Church and Community Centre:  
176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

*19 December, 2021*

*Advent 4*

*Sunday service*



**Ministers:** *All the people in Christ*    **Minister:** *Rev Jin Sook Kim*  
**Organist:** *David Russell*    **Reader:** *Marilyn Matthews*  
**Director of Music:** *Catherine Macdonald*

*We gather together as the people of God  
Kia Ora, Talofa, Bulla, Shalom and Annyeong-haseyo*

***Greetings with news and notices***

***Introit*** – My heart is leaping, Music, © Barry Brinson, Words © Marion

Kitchingman, *HOS* 101, vv1 &4

My heart is leaping  
my soul is glad,  
for God has remembered me,  
a humble servant;  
I now am blessed,  
for this Child will set people free.

For God shows mercy  
from age to age  
and keeps faith with those before;  
The promise given  
to Abraham  
is honoured and stands evermore.

***Call to Worship***

God has done great things for us!

**God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.**

Holy is God's name!

**God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.**

God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

**God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.**

**We sing** – Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord, CH3 164, TUNE:  
CH4 286, Music © Oxford University Press, vv 1-4, Words © Hope  
Publishing Company

**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!**

***Advent candle lighting***

We have lit three candles – for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle-the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

*(Four candle are lit.)*

**We sing** – Hope is a candle, Music © Douglas Galbraith; Words: Selah Publishing Co. Inc. CH4 #284, vv1-4

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

### **Prayers**

**Story time** – Alice and the giant emptiness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SRUIF528ik>

Question: How is Alice restored to become whole in the end?

**We sing** – Sing for God’s glory, Words © The Revd Kathy Galloway,  
Glasgow, Arrangement © Church of Scotland Panel on Worship, CH4  
172, vv 1-4

**Sing for God’s glory that colours the dawn of creation,  
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;**

**sun of delight  
succeeds the velvet of night,  
warming the earth's exultation.**

**Sing for God's power that shatters the chains that would bind us,  
searing the darkness of fear and despair that could blind us,  
touching our shame  
with love that will not lay blame,  
reaching out gently to find us.**

**Sing for God's justice disturbing each easy illusion,  
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;  
lifeblood of right,  
resisting evil and slight,  
offering freedom's transfusion.**

**Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey  
before us,  
who in our weariness give us their hope to restore us;  
in them we see  
the new creation to be,  
spirit of love made flesh for us.**

***Gospel Reading*** – Marilyn Matthews

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46-55

***Sermon*** – Magnifying the Lord

**Anthem** – My soul gives glory to my God, Words: paraphrase,  
©Medical Mission Sisters 1987, TUNE Belmont CH4 632, PCC 123, vv  
1-5

1. My soul gives glory to my God,  
My heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness  
In many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me:  
Yes, holy is this Name.  
All people will declare me blessed,  
And blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age to all who fear,  
Such mercy love imparts,  
Dispensing justice far and near,  
Dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,  
Promotes the insecure,  
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied;  
The rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant  
Supports those in distress,  
Remembering past promises  
With present faithfulness.

**Prayers of Intercession** - Gwenda Crawshaw  
**Leader:** Love came down at Christmas  
**Response:** let us share that Love

## ***Offering***

### ***We pray responsively***

Dear God,  
you blessed Mary  
by making her the mother of your only Son,  
Jesus Christ.

**You have blessed us, as well,  
with the gift of your Son,  
and indeed, with the gift of life itself.**

Out of all these blessings,  
we give you back these offerings this day.  
**Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled,  
we pledge our lives to you  
in anticipation of the coming of the one  
who brings us peace. Amen.**

***We sing*** - O little town of Bethlehem, *CH3 172 (CH4 304), vv 1-4*

**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.

***Benediction***

***The Grace***

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship  
of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever.

***Sing:*** AMENx3 CH4#819

***THREE FOLD-AMEN***