

The Third Sunday of Advent
Continuing Our Christian Exploration

St Andrews's, Gisborne,
17th., December, 2023.



Family and Youth Day

WE START WITH :: <https://youtu.be/NHfxpFLGkE>
a Russian Youth singing “GAUDETE” (Rejoice !)

Arranged and performed by Pavel Lisitsyn (2020) [2-30]

Text is Mediaval Latin Church in origin

Found in Finnish M/ss *‘Piae Cantiones’* ca.1562

Tempus ad est gratiae hoc quod optabamus,

Carmina laetitiae devote redamus.

***^* Gaude te, gaude te Christos est natus Ex Maria virginae, gaude te. (x2)**

Deus homo factus est naturam erante,

Mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante. ***^***

Ezecheelis porta clausa per transitor

Unde lux est orta salus inventor ***^***

Ergo nostra contio psallat jam in lustro,

Benedicat domino salus regi nostro. ***^***

***** WELCOME ::**

>>> Leader Monty Copeland

******* Assisted by Catherine Macdonald [Elder].

>>> Our Call to Worship :

from Colossians 3 vs 6ff. [CEV.]

L : Use all your wisdom to teach and instruct one another.

With thankful hearts, we sing psalms and hymns to God.

All : Whatever we say or do,

this should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus,

and give thanks to God the Father because of Him. AMEN.

+++TODAY IS ‘SUNDAY SCHOOL’ with a DIFFERENCE

https://youtu.be/x0E9_jRtrHc

Today’s Topic : THINKING ABOUT SCRIPTURE

MP+++1-PRAISE : הנה מה טוב [PSALM 133]

TODAY --YOU are ALL going to LEARN to sing a Psalm in Hebrew

הנה מה טוב <

Hi-neh ma tov

U’ ma’ na-im

She-vet ach-im

Gam Ya-chad

*****Our Prayer of Approach, (these are led by Duty Elder.)**

L : When we are together -- as a family,
we remember the actual Prayer
that Jesus taught His own disciples ... [NIV:: Luke 11: 2 -4.]

“ ‘Father, ... hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation. ... ’ ”
AMEN, TRULY TRULY, AMEN.

>>1-READING : The Gospel of MATTHEW, Ch.1: verses from 16 -23 [NIV]
(The last part of the) Genealogy of Joseph and Jesus.

*****2-PRAISE : Ch-4 301 [xxxxxxx] Hark the herald angels**

[Charles Wesley]

Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born king
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all you 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.

(Refrain...)

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.
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.

(Refrain.)

>>>2-READING : Paul's Letter to the ROMANS: ch.1 :14- 17 [GNB]

“... I have an obligation to all peoples,
to the civilized and to the savage,
to the educated and to the ignorant.
So then, I am eager to preach the Good Newsto you also ... “.

++A TIME OF CELEBRATION FOR ALL ::

led by YOURSELVES !!

Today's Topic : “ ANYONE *CELEBRATING SOMETHING* ?”

Do come, and tell us all ... now ...

>>>3-READING : From the Gospel of Luke, Ch 2 : v. 4 -20 [NIV]
Concerning Jesus's birth in Bethlehem.

*****3-PRAISE : 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 on 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

***** A TIME FOR LITTLE CHILDREN AMONG YOU :: PICS**

Today's Topic : “ *Everything is of Value to God !!!*” ***
(‘The Friendly Beasts’ - a Christmas Carol)

*****4-PRAISE : PCC150 AWAY IN A MANAGERIE**

1. Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around Him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

2. 'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
'I carried His mother uphill and down;
I carried His mother to Bethlehem town;
I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

3. 'I,' said the cow, all white and red,
'I gave Him my manger for His bed;
I gave him hay to pillow His head;
I,' said the cow, all white and red.

4. 'I,' said the sheep, with curly horn,
'I gave him my wool for His blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas mom;
I,' said the sheep, with curly horn.

5. 'I,' said the dove, from rafters high,
'I cooed Him to sleep that He should not cry,
we cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I;
I,' said the dove, from rafters high.

6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

+++Discussion on TODAY'S COVER PICTURE

led by a Minister Emeritus

Revd Dr Clive Yates

Today's Topic : The Gospel DOES have meaning TODAY !

*****Our OFFERTORY; DOXOLOGY, and SELF RE-DEDICATION :**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow:
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father; Son, and Holy Ghost.

L : Look into all our hearts 'To-day'.

**All : Help us find words of Wisdom
for those seeking for meaning;
in Jesus Name; ...AMEN**

*****5-PRAISE : Ch-4 309 [Stille Nacht] 7-24am 4 hymn choice as well**

Silent night, Holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
round the virgin mother and child,
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing " Al-le-lu-ia;
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, Holy night,
wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels, let us sing;
Al-le-lu-ia to our king:
Christ our Saviour is born;
Christ our Saviour is born.

>>> INTERCESSIONS for OTHERS

L : LORD: hear these, our Prayers;

All : And help us assist in answering these prayers.

*****6-PRAISE : Ch-4 306 [Adeste Fidelis] O come All ye faithful, ...**

O come, all ye faithful
joyful and triumphant.
O come ye! O come ye to Beth-lehem.
Come and behold Him,
born the King of Angels.
O come let us adore Him (3x)
Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of light.
He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God.
Begotten, not created; (Refrain)

Sing choirs of Angels,
sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
"Glory to God,
Glory in the highest" (Refrain)

*****OUR ADVENT-TIME BLESSING::**

*L : May we continue this journey together
as pilgrims travelling the same direction ...*

**ALL : May we each be prepared to Learn again
may we each be participants more fully again;
may we each be more supportive yet again;
May we each go on our way anticipating
the birth and arrival of our Christ.**

AMEN AMEN AMEN (sung.).

**Please Stay and Listen to today's ORGAN Recital : David Russell
and DO COME for a cup of Tea in the Lounge afterwards**