**Christmas Day at St Andrews,**

**The Penultimate in Our Christian Exploration**

**At St Andrews’s, Gisborne,**

**10-00 a.m., 25th., December, 2023.**

[**https://youtu.be/Cw3C5EhW3Ho**](https://youtu.be/Cw3C5EhW3Ho) **MP-4 = 4-20**

**Chorus *“ For Unto us a Child is born’* from the Messiah (HWV 56 )**

 **Georg Fredrik Handel (1741)**

 **The Megaron Chamber Choir: of the Diocesan Gymnasium**

 **Leader: Damijan Mocnik. Of the St Stanislav Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia.**

 **Recorded : Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Koper, Cappodistria.**

**\*\*\*Delighted to Welcome you all** : Led today by : Pat Flockhart \*\*\*

 Our Reader is : Bob Bos .>>>

**>>>Our Call to Worship: In Praise of the New Jerusalem. Psalm 122**

*L : I was glad when they said to me,*

 *“Let us go to the LORD's house.”*

**All : We are here, today;**

 **We stand within the gates of the New Jerusalem!**

 **Jerusalem will be a city restored**

 **to its former beauty, order, and harmony**.

 *L : Here the people will meet and pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*

 *“May those who love you prosper.”*

**All : “ May there be peace inside your walls**

 **and safety in all of Your places.”**

 **For the sake of my family and friends**

 **I say to Jerusalem, “Peace be with you!”**

 **For the sake of the house of the LORD our God**

 **I will pray for your continued prosperity. AMEN.**

**\*\*\*1-PRAISE : Ch-4 324 SA3 Angels from the realms**

**Angels from the realms of glory,**

 **wing your flight o’er all the earth**

**Ye who sang Creation’s story,**

 **now proclaim the Messiah’s birth,**

 ***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 flocks by night’**

**God, with us , is now residing,**

 **yonder shines the infant Light**

 **REFRAIN …**

**All creation: join in praising**

 **God the Father, Spirit, Son;**

**Evermore, your voices raising,**

 **to the eternal Three in One.**

 **REFRAIN**

**\*\*\*Prayer of Adoration, Confession, and Thanksgiving.**

*L : Creator God, Creating God; Loving Father to all Your children,*

*You alone are worthy of all our continued praise.*

 *As we come together, celebrating Your plan and purpose for humankind,*

 *we celebrate the birth of Jesus whom you called Your Son;*

 *born a child in Bethlehem, and dwelling amongst us.*

 *He revealed Your love and mercy to our dysfunctional world.*

**All : May our celebrations of His birth on its anniversary day,**

**provide joy and gladness for young and old alike:**

 **may our worship this day be to Your greater Glory,**

 **and may Peace be restored on earth to all mankind.**

*L : Holy and compassionate Lord, we are humbled when we remember*

 *that You came in weakness, and not with pomp and power;*

*in simplicity, born in a lowly stable to human parents;*

*but worshipped by simple shepherds and Great Kings alike*.

**All : Remind us always, that His birth signalled the reverse of many things**

**things that we seem to cling to, as well as to always seek after;**

 **position, reputation; wealth and possessions:**

 **Symbols, to which we seem to be always attracted.**

*L :Forgive us when we are hard hearted to the poor and unemployed,*

 *or those imprisoned by their own low self esteem***.**

**All ; Forgive us when Your church too often loses sight of truth and justice**

 **substituting our own, dark prejudices instead of Your Light.**

 **Lord, have mercy upon us all,**

 **Christ, have mercy upon me.**

***[ -- A MOMENT’S SILENCE -- ]***

*L : Almighty God. You constantly pardon, affirm, and strengthen us.*

 *You teach us to know that we are forgiven and renewed,*

 *and that we are to forgive others similarly and affirm them.*

 *This is the message brought by Angels from God to all mankind:*

 *“… Peace on Earth, and goodwill towards all men*….”

**All : Lord Jesus Christ: born amongst us, and living like one of us;**

 **friend to saints and to sinners alike.**

 **May we choose this special day**

 **to have You re-born again within us through our faith. AMEN.**

**>>>1-READING : Letter to the HEBREWS : Ch. 1 : vs. 1-4 [ NLT ]**

**\*\*\*2- PRAISE : Ch-4 306 SA32 [Adeste Fideles]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*.**

 **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,**

 **Jesu, to Thee be**

 **glo-ry given.**

 **Word of the Father**

 **now in flesh appearin g. (Refrain )**

>>>2 -READING : The GOSPEL According to LUKE : Ch 2 ; vs 5 –20

**>>>2-READING : The GOSPEL According to JOHN : Ch. 1: vs 1ff. [AV]**

**\*\*\*3-PRAISE : CAROL CH4 301 SA21 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 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...)***

**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.)***

**CHRISTMAS DAY REFLECTION on TODAY’S SCRIPTURE ::-**

 **led by the Emeritus Minister Revd Dr Clive Yates**

**TODAY’s TOPIC:: “… Some things are just ‘ *SUI GENERIS ’ …”***

Considering ‘things’ that are beyond ‘words’**!**

**4-PRAISE : CAROL CH4 313 SA40 See in yonder manger low …**

**See! in yonder manger low,**

**born for us on earth below,**

**see! the tender Lamb appears**

**promised from eternal years.**

*Refrain*

 ***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!***

 ***Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!***

 ***Sing through all Jerusalem,***

 ***‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’***

**Lo! within a manger lies**

**he who built the starry skies,**

**he who, throned in height sublime,**

**sits amid the cherubim.**

 *Refrain*

**Sacred Infant, all Divine,**

**what a tender love was thine,**

**thus to come from highest bliss**

**down to such a world as this!**

 *Refrain*

**\*\*\*INSTEAD of OUR OFFERTORY, A SELF-DEDICATION :**

*L : Loving God, Living God; on this Day, so long ago,*

 *when You chose to reveal Yourself and bring about Your new covenant:*

 *a Covenant of love , to all who would listen and hear Your voice, ...*

**All : ... we thank you that today you have given us new hope**

 **and have given us purpose and direction for our future lives.**

 **We thank You for our Fellowship together,**

 **and with all those who are called to be Your people;**

 **those sharing this Earth, and those already with You,**

 **especially those who were most dear to us,**

 **and who we miss so much in our daily lives,**

 **and whom You have chosen to take from our sight.**

***[ -- A MOMENT’S SILENCE -- ]***

*L : We are grateful for the promise that absolutely nothing can separate us*

 *from Your love which is to be found in Christ Jesus***,**

**All : The Past; the present; and the yet to be, are already known to You,**

 **and that we have an assured place in Your design and purpose.**

 **Glory be to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**

 **One God; One Faith; now and forever, AMEN**

**\*\*\*5- PRAISE : CH-4 320 Joy to the world**

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:**

**Let earth receive its 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 earth! The Saviour reigns:**

**Let us our 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, and wonders of His love**

**++DISMISSAL BLESSING**

**May we each GO our own way this Christmas Day,**

**but always remain united in the Lord, Christ Jesus.**

 **(Sung) AMEN – AMEN -- AMEN.**

**The Elders and Parish Council**

**wish all our Congregation**

 **a very Merry Christmas.**

**MP4 A Joyful Christmas Organ Recessional MP-4 chkd**

[**https://youtu.be/zxz-vJ8vHfY**](https://youtu.be/zxz-vJ8vHfY)

**Recessional Organ Music is : ‘ Carillon de Westminster’**

**From*“ Pieces de fantaisie”* Op.54, Louis Viene, ( 1870 – 1937)**

 **Former Organist at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris.**

 **Played by Richard McVeigh,**

 **From the Bis Organ in the Hauptkerk, Rotterdam, NDL**