GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

 ***Matawhero Church – Church Lane***

***St Andrew’s Church and Community Centre:***

***176 Cobden Street, Gisborne***

***1 December 2024 Communion Sunday Advent 1***

***We welcome all visitors to our service this morning.***

 ***Please sign the Visitors’ Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who stand at the back of the church.***

***A toilet is located in the foyer.***

***In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes, especially in the hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language with which you are most comfortable.***

***BOLDED WORDS are for congregational response. Where there is an asterisk \* please stand.***

# Welcome, news and Notices Introit and entry of Bible

**We Sing –** Spirit of God unseen as the wind

***Refrain Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, Gentle as is the dove, teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour’s love.***

1. **You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word; we read it still, needing its truth,**

**through it God’s voice is heard.**

1. **Without your help we fail our Lord, we cannot live his way; we need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.**

# Call to Worship: Climate Collect

**God of all time, past, present and future,**

**You surround us with signs of love and justice,**

**This Advent, renew our commitment to watch and pray, so that in climate change and anxious times, we may recognise Your work of redemption,**

**Through science and in faith,**

**In the name of hope, we pray, AMEN**

**We sing:** All creatures of our God and King CH4 147 vv1-4,7

**All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing alleluia, alleluia!**

**Bright brother sun with golden beam, clear sister moon with softer gleam:**

 ***O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

**Swift rushing wind, so wild and strong, high clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, alleluia!**

**New-breaking dawn, in praise rejoice, and lights of evening, find a voice:**

**Cool flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Fire, with your flames so fierce and bright, giving to all both warmth and light:**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day**

**unfolds God’s blessings on our way, O praise him, alleluia!**

**All flowers and fruits that in you grow, let them his glory also show:**

**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:**

# Children’s Chat & Prayer

**We sing:** Wide, wide as the ocean

**Wide, wide as the ocean**

**High as the heavens above Deep, deep as the deepest see**

**Is my Saviour’s love.**

**I though so unworthy Still I’m a child of his care**

**For his word teaches me that his love reaches me**

**Everywhere**

**Scripture Reading Luke 21:25 – 36 NIV**

15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 Stand firm, and you will win life. 20 “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. 22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

**We sing:** God who made the earth WOV82

**God, who made the earth,**

**The air, the sky, the sea,**

**Who gave the light its birth, Careth for me**

**God, Who made the grass, The flow’r, the fruit, the tree,**

**The day and night to pass, Careth for me**

**God, Who made the sun,**

**The moon, the stars, is He Who, when life’s clouds come on, Careth for me**

**God, Who sent his son**

**To die on Calvary, Has shown how lovingly He cares for me.**

**Reflection**

# Intercessory Prayer

Leader: Lord hear our prayer

Response: **Help us to watch and pray and to assist where we can**

**Offering & \*Dedication** *Please stand as offering is brought forward and join in the dedication.* Take my gifts AA127; WB73 v1

**1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,**

 **now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

**Communion Hymn:** Now to your table spread AA100

1. **Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith that you alone provide the words of life and death: In wine and bread, in promised food we find your loving heart, O God.**

1. **Hands of the world stretch out, your mystery and touch, in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach, to sing in joy, to cry in grief, to know your meaning for our life.**

1. **Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good as though all human kind around one table stood,**

**this bread to break, this wine to taste – one people in the name of Christ.**

# Communion Liturgy B *Come forward*

**\*Final Hymn God of the Galaxies** *AA 54 Cheam*

**God of the galaxies spinning in space,** **God of the smallest seed, our living source, yours is the gift of this beautiful place.**

 ***Let us care for your garden and honour the earth.***

**Careless and covetous, gross are our greeds, taking the riches the garden provides, wasting its goodness, forgetting its needs.**

***Let us care for your garden and honour the earth.***

**Forests and rivers are ravaged and die, raped is the land till it bleeds in its clay, silenced the birdsong and plundered the sea. *Let us care for your garden and honour the earth.***

**Let there be beauty, and let there be air fragrant with peace, never poisoned with fear, freed from the plagues of pollution and war. *Let us care for your garden and honour the earth.***

**Life is a holy thing, life is a whole, linking each creature and blessing us all, making connections of body and soul.**

 ***Let us care for your garden and honour the earth***

# \*Blessing

**May God’s blessing surround you each day**

**As you trust him and walk in his way**

**May his presence within**

**Guard and keep you from sin**

**Go in peace, go in love, go in joy.**

**\*AMEN X 3**

**Ministers*:*** *All the people in Christ*

**Leader*:*** *Val Hall* **Reader:** *June Stichbury* **Organist:** *Paul Pollock*

*Please join us in the lounge for a time of fellowship and friendship over a cup of tea or coffee after the service*

**Note:** The offering is now received at the door as we enter. If you miss noticing this, you may place a retiring offering in the offering boxes at the door as you leave.

Christian Blind Mission accepts used stamps. Send directly to them or Val Hall. (Leprosy Mission no longer accepts stamps)

**Please remember** donations for the Love basket when shopping. All offerings gratefully received.

Val Hall and Pat Flockhart are offering Home Communion, and they need an Elder to be present. Any Elders willing to assist, please phone or email Val Hall.

For all Pastoral care needs please contact one of the committee members:

Jenny Lawton 868 4268; Ruth McLennan 021 02704867; Jan Gordon

0211836008; Lynnor Cooke 06 214 3945; Barbara Larsen 863-9009

*Matawhero Gardening happens from time to time. If you would like to help, please contact Paulina Melief 867 0605*

**Mindful Prayer topics:** **December 1st & 8th 2024** International and National tensions. Climatic disasters. Those being made redundant.

GPP, the Commissioners visit and decisions to be made. Parish

Councillors. Reflection on the true meaning of Christmas. Faith, Family and Friends. Ourselves.

Mindful Prayer contact Margaret Graham ph. 021 026 03990 or email m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz

**DIARY**

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| **SUNDAY**  | **1** **ADVENT 1**  | **Communion celebrant Val Hall**  |
|  | **10.00am**  | **St. Andrew’s**  **Communion Matawhero** No service |
| Monday  | 2 9.00am  | Walking Group  |
| Tuesday  | 3 10.00am  | Open Door All welcome  |
|   |  7.00pm  | Lessons and Carols Choir rehearsal  |
| Wednesday  | 4 9.45am  | mainly music  |
| Friday    | 6 1.00pm  | Choir rehearsal  |
| **SUNDAY**  | **8** **ADVENT 2**  | **Kids’ Café and friends**  |
|  | **10.00am**  | **St. Andrew’s**   |

**Matawhero** No service

**Coming up:**

**Sunday 15 December 7pm Concert of Lessons and Carols for**

**Christmas**

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| Sunday  | Reader  | Door & Team  | Morning Tea  | Sound Visual  |
| 1 December Advent 1 Communion Val Hall  | **Matawhero** No service **St Andrew’s** June Stichbury  | **Don** **McConnochie** Sarah McConnochie  | Dianne Burrows  | S&V: Alan C: Don   |
| 8 December Advent 2 Family Service  | **Matawhero** No service **St Andrew’s** Kids Café  |  **Chrissie** **Parker** Cathy Porter   | Trish Kwak  | S&V: Hans C: Hans   |

**Communion Elders St Andrew’s December 1st Val Hall celebrant; Seton**

**Clare, Jan Gordon;** Linda Savage, Cathy Porter

***Gisborne Presbyterian Parish***

***St Andrew’s Church and Matawhero Historic Church:***

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