GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

#### ***Matawhero Church – Church Lane***

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

#### ***176 Cobden Street, Gisborne***

***22 December 2024 Advent 4***

***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 Catherine**

CWS Announcement

In Advent 4 - a hopeful faith In Advent 1, 2 and 3, we met Mrs Mafi, working with local organisations in Oceania to make sure “No one is left behind” in her community. Christian faith powers Mrs Mafi. With a smile, she describes having faith that with “God’s guidance, we will find the right alternative in action.” Mrs Mafi practices a spirituality of compassion, small actions shared in and with her family and community. CWS provides a way for us in Aotearoa to partner with the energy of Mrs Mafi. Our financial resources result in the practical sharing of tools and resources. The CWS 2024 fliers have more information.

**Introit and entry of Bible**

**We Sing –** Peace I give to you

**Peace I give to you, I give to you my peace 2x**

**Let it flow to one another, let it flow, let it flow. 2x**

**Joy I give to you….**

**Hope I give to you …**

**Love I give to you ….**

**Call to worship: (Micah 5: 2, 4) Sally**

**“**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
    though you are small among the clans of Judah**,  
out of you will come for me  
    one who will be ruler over Israel,**whose origins are from of old,  
    from ancient times.”

**He will stand and shepherd his flock  
    in the strength of the Lord,**in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. **And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
    will reach to the ends of the earth.**

**We sing:** O little town of Bethlehem CH4 304

**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.**

**Climate Collect Sally**

**God of mercy, We see your compassionate action in the song of Mary, the way of Jesus and the care of community This Advent, in the face of sea rise and cyclone strike, May we follow your lead in sharing hope across oceans, Renew our compassion for our neighbours near and far - people and plants, fish and rocks, land and sea, In mercy’s name, Amen**

**Advent Candle lighting Catherine**

**CWS Video**

**We sing:** I’ve got peace like a river

**I’ve got peace like a river (3x)  
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.. (repeat both lines)**

**I’ve got love like the ocean (3x)  
I’ve got love like the ocean in my soul. (repeat both lines)**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain (3x)  
I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul. (repeat both lines)**

**I’ve got peace like a river.  
I’ve got love like the ocean.  
I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul.. (repeat all lines)**

**Scripture Reading Luke 21:39-45 NIV Val**

**Mary Visits Elizabeth**

**39**At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, **40**where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. **41**When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42**In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! **43**But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44**As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45**Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!”

**We sing:** Once in Royal David’s City CH4 315

**Once, in Royal David’s City**

**Stood a lowly cattle shed**

**Where a mother laid her baby**

**With a manger for his bed**

**Mary was that mother mild**

**Jesus Chriat her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven**

**who is God and Lord of all,**

**and his shelter was a stable,**

**and his cradle was a stall.**

**With the poor and mean and lowly**

**lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,**

**through his own redeeming love;**

**for that Child so dear and gentle**

**is our Lord in heaven above;**

**and he leads his children on**

**to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,**

**with the oxen standing by,**

**we shall see him, but in heaven,**

**set at God's right hand on high,**

**where, like stars, his children crowned**

**all in white shall wait around.**

Reading continues: Luke 1:46-55 New International Version **Lynnor**

**Mary’s Song**

**46**And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
**47**    and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
**48**for he has been mindful  
    of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
**49**    for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
    holy is his name.  
**50**His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
    from generation to generation.  
**51**He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
    he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
**52**He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
    but has lifted up the humble.  
**53**He has filled the hungry with good things  
    but has sent the rich away empty.  
**54**He has helped his servant Israel,  
    remembering to be merciful  
**55**to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
    just as he promised our ancestors.”

**Sermon** Prepared by Rev Dr Steve Taylor, AngelWings Ltd, for CWS, 2024. **CFM**

**We Sing:** Tell out my soul CH4 285 Tune ***Woodlands***

**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!**

**Magnificat** by Joy Cowley HS62 **Lynnor**

My soul sings in gratitude.

I’m dancing in the mystery of God.

The light of the Holy One is within me

and I am blessed, so truly blessed.

This goes deeper than human thinking.

I am filled with awe

at Love whose only condition

is to be received

The gift is not for the proud,

for they have no room for it.

The strong and self-sufficient ones

don’t have this awareness.

But those who know their emptiness

can rejoice in Love’s fullness.

It’s the Love that we are made for,

the reason for our being.

It fills our inmost heart space

and brings to birth in us, the Holy One.

**Offering & \*Dedication** *Please stand as offering is brought forward and join in singing the dedication.* **Sally**

Come to this Christmas singing COC16

**Come to this Christmas singing!**

**come to a birthday, bringing**

**gifts from our country's treasure,**

**beauty of shell and stone:**

**wisdom the old have taught us,**

**laughter the young have brought us,**

**love to surround a manger,**

**making this child our own.**

**Wealth of our land and water,**

**riches of race and culture --**

**these be our gold and incense**

**offered for Christmas Day:**

**where we make peace, declare it,**

**where we have much, let's share it,**

***aroha* warm our hearts,**

**and *aroha* be our way.**

**Here where the sheep are grazing,**

**where summer sun is blazing,**

**harvests for others ripen,**

**food for the world can grow:**

**Christ of a cold December,**

**quicken us to remember**

**poverty in a stable,**

**need, like the sting of snow.**

**Reflective Prayer** using words from The Magnificat. **Val** “exalt” - God the creator, who hovers over the waters of Oceania, bringing waves of mercy, gifting beauty, resilience and local wisdom, inviting us to share love with neighbours – land neighbour, water neighbour, tree neighbour, plant neighbour, bird neighbour, fish neighbour, next door neighbour, Oceania neighbour.

*Silent reflection*

• “look” - with mercy on the organisations and people working for climate hope across Oceania, including Tonga Community Development Trust, the Pacific Conference of Churches and the “Green Apostles” in Melanesia

*Silent reflection*

• “bring down” - the industries and peoples that exploit lands, sea and people for greed, particularly those contributing to bottom trawling and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch

*Silent reflection*

• “help” - those directly impacted by climate-related disasters, researching, seeking innovative local solutions and the younger generations God is raising up to advocate for positive change across all God’s creation in both people and planet.

*Silent reflection*

**Final Hymn:** O Come, all ye faithful CH4 306

**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.***

**God of God  
Light of Light,  
Lo, 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,   
In the high­est;**

***Refrain***

\***Blessing: We Sing –** Peace I give to you

**Peace I give to you, I give to you my peace 2x**

**Let it flow to one another, let it flow, let it flow. 2x**

**Joy I give to you….**

**Hope I give to you …**

**Love I give to you ….**

**\*AMEN X 3**

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

**Leadersand****Readers:** *Choir*

**Organist:** *David Russell*

*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 15th & 22nd 2024** Global & national tensions. Redundancies. Health issues. Travellers & Holiday makers. GPP and the Commissioners decisions. Parish Councillors. Those suffering loss. The true meaning of Christmas. Ourselves.

~~.~~

Mindful Prayer contact Margaret Graham ph. 021 026 03990 or email [m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz)

#### **DIARY**

**SUNDAY 22** **ADVENT 4 CWS continued**

**10.00am St. Andrew’s**

**Matawhero** No service

Monday 23 9.00am Walking Group. Final for 2024

Tuesday 24 7.00pm Christmas Eve Service Matawhero

Rev Mike Cotton

Wednesday 25 10.00am Christmas Day service St Andrew’s Rev Mike Cotton

**SUNDAY 29** **CHRISTMAS 1 Lynnor Cooke CWS ends**

**10.00am St. Andrew’s**

**Matawhero** No service

**Coming up:**

**Sunday 5 January Communion and Picnic at Matawhero. Anniversary of GPP**

**Wednesday 15 January 12.30pm Ian Miles presents** his 6th biennial St Andrew’s lunchtime concert

**Commission News**

**Dates for  Meetings** - the focus of which will be discerning our future and preparing our report to the Commission

19th January  **Congregational Meeting**.

To discuss various options for the life of the Parish, and vote for new Parish Councillors. Seconded nominations should be submitted by this meeting.

9th    February **Congregational Meeting**.

In preparation of report to the Commission/

**Commission contact**: Commission Convenor *Rob McIntosh,* **email**[*rob.mcintosh02@gmail.com*](mailto:rob.mcintosh02@gmail.com)*,*

*or* **Phone** *0274411392 to arrange a time to talk further*

**Note:**

Office closed from Friday 20 December to Tuesday 14 January

No walking group scheduled for January

Car boot Sale resumes on 11th January

Open Door Tuesday sessions to be held at 109 Ormond Road from 7 January until Tuesday 4 February when St Andrew’s lounge sessions resume

Choir resumes on Friday 31 January

mainly music resumes Wednesday 12 February

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 22 December  Advent 4 | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  Choir | **Pat Flockhart**  Jenny Lawton | Paulina Melief | S&V: Don  C: Don |
| Tuesday 24th 7pm Matawhero  Christmas Eve  Rev. Mike Cotton | M: Paulina Melief  St A’s – No service | **Matawhero Team** | N/A | S&V: N/A |
| Wednesday 25th  Christmas Day  Rev Mike Cotton | M: No service  St A’s: Bob Bos | **Don McConnochie**  Sarah McC | N/A | S&V: Linda  C: Don |
| 29 December  Christmas 1  Lynnor Cooke | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  tbc | **Seton Clare**  Dianne Burrows | Wendy Morris | S&V: Alan  C:Hans |

***Gisborne Presbyterian Parish***

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

***Office: 06 868 5513******Hours 10-12 Tuesday – Thursday***

***176 Cobden Street 4010 Bank A/c number 03-0638-0462917-000***

[standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz)[www.standrewsgis.org.nz](http://www.standrewsgis.org.nz)