GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

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

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

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

***25 December 2024 Christmas Day***

**We welcome Rev Mike Cotton and Lynne Cotton on organ**

***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.***

**Christmas Day – St. Andrews 2024**

**Welcome and notices** Mike

**Call to worship** Bob

In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

**Light of life for all people.**

The Word was with God. And the Word was God.

**Full of Grace and truth.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us, giving us the power to become children of God; Glory be to God.

**The God of all ages.**

**Christmas Greetings** – Mike –

The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us. The peace of Christ be with you always

**And also with you** ( Please share the Peace)

**Carol**:- “Hark the Herald angels sing”SOA21 CH4 301

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing,  
   “Glory to the newborn King;  
   Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
   God and sinners reconciled!”  
   Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
   Join the triumph of the skies;  
   With th’angelic host proclaim,  
   “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

***Refrain:*  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

1. **Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;  
   Christ the everlasting Lord;  
   Late in time, behold Him come,  
   Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
   Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
   Hail th’incarnate Deity,  
   Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
   Jesus our Emmanuel.**
2. **Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace!  
   Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
   Light and life to all He brings,  
   Ris’n 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.**

**Candle lighting** ( church member, Mike to name candles as they are lit -Love, Joy Peace and Hope)

**Carol** ;- The First Nowell (vs 1, 2, 4, 6) SOA39 CH4 323

**The first nowell the angel did say CH4 323**

**1 The first nowell the angel did say   
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
   born is the King of Israel.***

**2 They lookèd up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
*Nowell, ...*  
  
4 This star drew nigh to the north-west:  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
*Nowell, ...*  
  
6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
who hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.  
*Nowell, ...***

**Prayers for church, community, country and world**. Bob

For the hungry and the overfed

**May we have enough.**

For the mourners and the mockers

**May we laugh together.**

For the victims and the oppressors

**May we share power wisely**

For the silenced and the propagandists

**May we speak our own words of truth.**

For the unemployed and the overworked

**May our marks on the earth be kindly and creative.**

For the troubled and the sleek

**May we live together as wounded healers.**

For the homeless and the cosseted

**May our homes be simple, warm and welcoming.**

For the vibrant and the dying

**May we all die to live.**

Let us all be at peace within ourselves. Amen

**Readings**:-

Bob - Titus 2: 11 – 14 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

**11**For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%202%3A11-14&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-29903a)] **12**training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, **13**while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%202%3A11-14&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-29905b)] Jesus Christ. **14**He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Mike John 1: 1 – 14 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

**The Word Became Flesh**

**1**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4**in him was life,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A%201%20%E2%80%93%2014%20&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26039a)] and the life was the light of all people. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

**6**There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7**He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8**He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9**The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A%201%20%E2%80%93%2014%20&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26044b)]

**10**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11**He came to what was his own,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A%201%20%E2%80%93%2014%20&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26046c)] and his own people did not accept him. **12**But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13**who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A%201%20%E2%80%93%2014%20&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26049d)] full of grace and truth.

**Story Time** Mike

**Carol**:- Good Christians all rejoice SOA19 CH4 322

**1: Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
Now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and lamb before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**2: Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and all blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
  
3: Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Bob – Blessed be God who calls us together.

**Praise to God who makes us one people**

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

**Praise to God who is revealed as love**

Blessed be God who alone has called us

**Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.**

Accept O God, our sacrifice of praise.

**Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done. Our hands were empty, and you filled them.**

**Carol**:- “Joy to the World” SOA23 CH4 320

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let Earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, x2  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.  
  
Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, x2  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.  
  
No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, x2  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, x2  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

**Blessing and dismissal**. Mike

**Coming up:**

**Sunday 29 10.00am St Andrew’s (Lynnor Cooke)**

**Matawhero – no service**

**Sunday 5 January 10.00am Communion and Picnic at Matawhero.**

**Anniversary of GPP**

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

***Gisborne Presbyterian Parish***

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

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

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