GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

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

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

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

***29 December 2024 Christmas 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 –** Love came down at Christmas CH4 316

1. **Love came down at Christmas,  
   Love all lovely, Love divine;  
   Love was born at Christmas,  
   Star and angels gave the sign.**
2. **Worship we the Godhead,  
   Love incarnate, Love divine;  
   Worship we our Jesus:  
   But wherewith for sacred sign?**
3. **Love shall be our token,  
   Love be yours and love be mine,  
   Love to God and all men,  
   Love for plea and gift and sign.**

**Call to worship:**

Leader: Great God, your love has called us here,  
as we, by love for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
 **All: We come, with all our heart and mind  
 your call to hear, your love to find.**

We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,  
 **by powers and systems close confined,  
 yet seeking hope for humankind.**

Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own,  
not through some merit, right or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone.  
 **We strain to glimpse your mercy seat  
 and find you kneeling at our feet.**

Then take the towel and break the bread  
and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
 **to work till all creation sings,  
 to fill all worlds, to crown all things**.

**We sing:** 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.**

**Scripture Reading Colossians 3: 12-17 Good News Bible**

12You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. 14And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. 15The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. 16Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. 17Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

**Story Time:**

**Two New Zealand Poems** (including Eileen Duggan)

**Sing** as a prayer: Where mountains rise to open skies AA155 *Dunedin*

**Where mountains rise to open skies**

**your name, O God, is echoed far,**

**from island beach to kauri’s reach,**

**in water’s light, in lake and star.**

**Your people’s hearts, your people’s part**

**be caring in our caring for this land,**

**for faith to flower, for aroha**

**to let each other’s mana stand.**

**From broken word, from conflict stirred,**

**from lack of vision, set us free**

**to see the line of your design,**

**to feel creation’s energy.**

**Your love be known, compassion shown,**

**that every child have equal scope:**

**in justice done, in trust begun**

**shall be our heritage and hope.**

**Where mountains rise to open skies**

**your way of peace distil the air,**

**your spirit bind all humankind,**

**one covenant of life to share!**

**Reflection**

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

**As we bring our thank offerings of money and food we offer ourselves to your service loving God. May we gladly serve you as we are able, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Final Hymn:** Hark! the herald angels sing 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.**

\***Blessing:**

Great God, in Christ you set us free  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit’s liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

**\*AMEN X 3**

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

**Leader***: Lynnor Cooke* **Reader:** *tbc*

**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:** **Mindful Prayer topics:** **December 29th 2024 & January 5th 2025** World Peace as we welcome in 2025. Holiday travellers; safety on the road and on the water. GPP and Parish Councillors, the way ahead; the commissioners and decisions. Those facing loss. Thanks to God for Faith, Family and Friends.

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

**10.00am St. Andrew’s**

**Matawhero** No service

**SUNDAY 5** **CHRISTMAS 2** Anniversary of GPP

**Combined Communion and Picnic @ Matawhero: outside if fine**

**Celebrant Pat Flockhart** *Paul*

**St Andrew’s** No service

**Note:**

Office closed from Friday 20th December to 14th 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

**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

**Sunday19th 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.

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**Sunday 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*

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| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 29 December  Christmas 1  Lynnor Cooke | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  June Stichbury | **Seton Clare**  Dianne Burrows | Wendy Morris | S&V: Alan  C:Hans |
| 5 January  Christmas 2  GPP anniversary  Communion & Picnic | **Matawhero**  tbc  **St Andrew’s**  No service | **Matawhero Team** | **Matawhero Team**  Shared Picnic | S&V: N/A  C: N/A |

***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***

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