GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

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

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

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

***12 January 2025 Epiphany 2***

***Welcome to our guest speaker, Sr Cynthia Kearney and our guest organist Ian Miles.***

***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.***

Welcome, Introduction and Notices.

Silent preparation

Introit; Simply to be HS118

**Simply to be, to be in stillness,**

**simply to trust that God is here,**

**simply to know the Holy Presence,**

**is to be blessed:**

**so am I blessed,**

**simply to hold the given moment,**

**simply to lay concern aside,**

**simply to let the heart be speaking,**

**is to be blessed:**

**so am I blessed,**

**so am I blessed within God’s keeping,**

**so am I freed from pointless stress,**

**steadied to feel the soul replenished,**

**given this grace,**

**folded in peace.**

**Call to Worship.**

Leader: Give praise to the Beloved,

O heavenly hosts,

**Response: Sing of Love’s glory and strength.**

Leader: Exalt the glory of Love’s Name:

**Response: Adore the beloved in holy splendour.**

Leader: Love invites all to the dance of freedom,

**Response: to sing the Beloved’s song of truth.**

Leader: The voice of Love uproots the thorns of fear,

**Response: Love uproots fear in every open heart.**

Leader: The Beloved lives in our hearts:

**Response: Love dwells with us for ever.**

**INTROIT (all)** We are many, we are one **FFS 67**

**We are many, we are one, and the work of Christ is done**

**when we learn to live in true community,**

**as the stars that fill the night, as a flock of birds in flight,**

**as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;**

**as the branches of a tree, as the waves upon the sea,**

**as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.**

**All division is made whole when we honour every soul,**

**find the life of God in every you and me,**

**as the fingers of a hand, as the grains that form the sand,**

**as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;**

**as the threads upon a loom, as a field of flowers in bloom,**

**as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.**

**We will join creation’s song, make a world where all belong,**

**build as one in peace and loving harmony,**

**as the voices of a choir, as the flames within a fire,**

**as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;**

**as the snowflakes in the snow, as the colours of a bow,**

**as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine. *Colin Gibson***

Prayer (all)

**We thank you God for continuing to lavish your gifts upon us**

**when you often meet with ingratitude.**

**We thank you for speaking your word despite our deafness,**

**for putting your word into our hearts in spite of our resistance.**

**We thank you for constantly forgiving us in spite of the times**

**we have withheld it from others.**

**We thank you for being there for us when we weren't even aware.**

**May your Spirit continue to awaken love in us.**

HYMN AA132 Tell my people I love them

***Tell my people I love them; tell my people that I care.***

***When they feel far away from me, tell my people I am there.***

**Tell my people I came and died**

**to give them liberty;**

**as they abide in me**

**they will be really free!**

**Tell my people where-e’re they go**

**to claim my risen power,**

**my peace and joy and love**

**is with them hour by hour.**

**Tell my people who grieve and mourn**

**that I allowed the night**

**of darkness to descend,**

**but I am still the Light**

**Tell my people to share their wealth**

**and fight the sin of greed;**

**care for the refugee;**

**the hungry they’re to feed.**

**Tell my people throughout the world**

**to strive for peace today,**

**show love for enemies,**

**be servants of the Way**

**CELEBRATIONS:**

**Celebrations today. May God bless you we pray.**

**Live for Jesus, dear people. May he guide you each day.**

Readings: Isaiah 43;1-7New International Version

**Israel’s Only Savior**

**43**But now, this is what the Lord says—  
    he who created you, Jacob,  
    he who formed you, Israel:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
    I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
**2**When you pass through the waters,  
    I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
    they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
    you will not be burned;  
    the flames will not set you ablaze.  
**3**For I am the Lord your God,  
    the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;  
I give Egypt for your ransom,  
    Cush[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2043%3A1-7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-18509a)] and Seba in your stead.  
**4**Since you are precious and honoured in my sight,  
    and because I love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
    nations in exchange for your life.  
**5**Do not be afraid, for I am with you;  
    I will bring your children from the east  
    and gather you from the west.  
**6**I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’  
    and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’  
Bring my sons from afar  
    and my daughters from the ends of the earth—  
**7**everyone who is called by my name,  
    whom I created for my glory,  
    whom I formed and made.”

Luke 3;15-16, 21-22 New International Version

**15**The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. **16**John answered them all, “I baptize you with[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%203%3A15-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25042a)] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%203%3A15-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25042b)] the Holy Spirit and fire.

**The Baptism of Jesus**

**21**When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened **22**and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

**Reflection on the readings**

**Response**: (leader)

Jesus, at his baptism, knew clearly that he was the son of God and that God loved him tenderly. Jesus wants each of us to know how precious we are in the sight of God and we will experience the Divine as he did if we are prepared to say yes to his following invitations:

Will you let me give you my unconditional love?

Will you accept my peace for your tired or doubtful self?

Will you receive my mercy and forgiveness?

Will you believe in my love when others have gone away or given up on you?

Will you be bread for my hungry, love to my needy, hope to my desolate?

Will you love yourself well and believe in the gifts that I have given you?

Will you trust me to always companion you?

Let us take a moment in silence to give our yes to Jesus.

**Anthem:** My heart ever faithful JS Bach

My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, My Jesus is near.

Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining. My Jesus is here.

My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, My Jesus is near.

**Prayers of the people.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

Father, Mother God, hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory

are yours now and forever.

**Hymn CH4 528. v 1-4 Make me a channel of your peace**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred let me bring your love;**

**where there is injury, your healing power;**

**and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;**

**where there is darkness, only light;**

**and where there's sadness, ever joy**

**Oh, Spirit, grant that I may never seek**

**so much to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**in giving of ourselves that we receive;**

**and in dying that we're born to eternal life**

***Blessing* (all)**

**Living God, bless us with eyes that see goodness, mouths that speak love, ears that are discerning, hearts that are accommodating, hands that touch in kindness, feet that go the extra mile and smiles that show acceptance.**

**3-fold Amen**

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

**Leader:**  *Sr Cynthia Kearney* **Reader:** *Alvin Hall*

**Organist:** *Ian Miles*

*Please join us for friendship and fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee in the lounge 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:** **January 12th & 19th 2025** A peaceful 2025. Those facing loss. Children of the world. Families in turmoil. Upcoming congregational meetings and decisions; Parish Councillors and Commissioners. Ourselves. Thanks to God for His love.

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)

**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*

#### **DIARY**

**SUNDAY 12 EPIPHANY 1**

**10am St Andrew’s service – Sr Cynthia**

**Kearney with guest organist Ian Miles**

Matawhero – no service

Tuesday 1410.00am Open Door 109 Ormond Road

1.30pm KTK Ryman Val tbc

**Wednesday 15 2.30pm Finance Committee**

Thursday 162.30pm Dunblane Service tbc

**SUNDAY 19 EPIPHANY 2 Methodist Martyrs Sunday**

**10.00 St Andrew’s Ruth McLennan**

**followed by a** brief meeting including a vote for new Parish Councillors, then a Workshop to address the options regarding our future.  A simple lunch will be provided

**Matawhero – no service**

**Coming up:**

**Wednesday 22 January 12 noon Worship Committee**

**Sunday 9 February** **Congregational Meeting**.

In preparation of report to the Commission

**Note:**

Office reopens Tuesday 14th January

No walking group scheduled for January

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

Choir resumes on Friday 31 January

mainly music resumes Wednesday 12 February

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 12 January  Epiphany 1  Sr Cynthia Kearney | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  Alvin Hall | **Seton Clare**  Dianne Burrows | Lyn Griffiths | S&V: Don  C:Don |
| 19 January  Epiphany 2  Ruth McLennan | **Matawhero**  No service  **St Andrew’s**  Par Flockhart | **Chrissie Parker**  Cathy Porter | Val Hall | S&V: Hans  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***

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