####  **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH**

**WELCOME TO ST ANDREW’S GISBORNE**

***Matawhero Church – Church Lane***

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

***176 Cobden Street, Gisborne***

***26 January 2025 Epiphany 3***



*We gather together as the people of God*

***Welcome, Notices & Introduction Catherine***

*We take a few moments of silence to prepare ourselves*

 *to worship God*

*During the singing of the Introit, the Bible and Candle, representing the Light of Christ among us, will be carried into the Church*

***Introit –*** Simply to be HS #118,

**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 Sally***

By this I have known the presence of the Lord:

**in the rising of the sun,**
**in the smile of another’s face,**

in the touch of a hand
or the sound of a laugh,

**in the scent of a flower**
**holding the promise of spring.**

By this I have known the power of the Lord:

**in the healing of hurts,**
**in the forgiveness of sin,**

in the giving of gifts beyond all expectation,

**in the shower of love**
**that comes from God’s Son.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord with all of our heart!

**Let us worship our God, whose presence**

**and power endures forever!**

***We sing* –** God of freedom God of Justice, Tune: Picardy WB19 CH4 236

**God of freedom, God of justice,**

**you whose love is strong as death,**

**you who saw the dark of prison,**

**you who knew the price of faith:**

**touch our world of sad oppression**

**with your Spirit’s healing breath.**

**Rid the earth of torture’s terror,**

**you whose hands were nailed to wood;**

**hear the cries of pain and protest,**

**you who shed the tears and blood:**

**move in us the power of pity**

**restless for the common good.**

**Make in us a captive conscience**

**quick to hear, to act, to plead;**

**make us truly sisters, brothers**

 **of whatever race or creed:**

**teach us to be fully human,**

**open to each other’s need.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. Holy Oneness. Joy Cowley *Deborah***

Holy Oneness,

Creator Father and Wisdom Mother,

You have made us for your love.

**We thank you.**

Your heaven grow within us,

a light that transforms

the shadows in our lives.

**We thank you.**

Daily you meet our needs,

food for the body,

food for the soul.

We are held by your love

as fish are held by the sea

**We thank you**

Help us to see with love.

When we know our shadows are light waiting to be born,

then we will not judge the shadows of others.

For this vision of growth,

**We thank you**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION;

**We are sorry for the times**

**Our attitudes and actions have caused others humiliation and distress.**

**We have not trusted You and wasted time with unnecessary worry and anxiety.**

**We have not recognised unjust situations.**

**We have not supported the small voices ignored in our society.**

**We have not offered understanding to those suffering from the effects of trauma**

**Have mercy on us compassionate God. Hear and understanding our yearnings to live in your Kingdom,**

**Your community of hospitality and kindness. We ask this of Christ, the Way and the Spirit who leads.**

**Amen**

***With the family Catherine***

***Small things count AA123***

**Small things count, so Jesus said --**

 **cups of water, crumbs of bread,**

**small things done because we're kind**

 **count as big things in God's mind.**

**Small things make the big things grow --**

 **yeast that bubbles in the dough,**

**puffs that fill a big balloon,**

 **notes that make a happy tune.**

**Every hair that's on our head,**

 **every sparrow, Jesus said,**

**God takes care of, counts and knows --**

 **God loves us from top to toes!**

***Reading:* Deuteronomy 10:12-21** New International Version ***Marilyn***

Fear the Lord

12And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

14To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. 15Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. 16Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. 17For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. 18He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. 19And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. 20Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. 21He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

**Introduction: *Catherine***

***We sing* –** Loving Spirit Words © Shirley Murray, Alleluia Aotearoa #94, Tune: Omni Die WB48 WOV5

**1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,**

 **you have chosen me to be -**

 **you have drawn me to your wonder,**

 **you have set your sign on me.**

**2. Like a mother, you enfold me,**

 **hold my life within your own,**

 **feed me with your very body,**

 **form me of your flesh and bone.**

**3. Like a father, you protect me,**

 **teach me the discerning eye,**

 **hoist me up upon your shoulder,**

 **let me see the world from high.**

**4. Friend and lover, in your closeness**

 **I am known and held and blessed:**

 **in your promise is my comfort,**

 **in your presence I may rest.**

**5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,**

 **you have chosen me to be -**

 **you have drawn me to your wonder,**

 **you have set your sign on me.**

***Reading:* Worship** from Psalms Downunder by Joy Cowley No 21  ***Val***
We step out of our everyday selves
and into this cathedral
of sky and earth and sea
where all the parables of life
are played out in their seasons
and all the seasons held as one
in the love of God.

Everything here is holy in its being.
Every fern, tree, rock, drop of sea,
exists as a prayer of thanksgiving,
and together they speak a chapter
in the gospel of wonder
which is laid upon our lives.

Eagerly our hearts lean forward,
to listen to the praise of tree ferns
echoing in the still water,
and to see the shimmering of the divine
behind the surface of each leaf.

Look! It is everywhere!
The love of the creator glowing
in mountains and in ocean,
in pebble and stem, fish and bird,
and us! Yes, yes! The light of God in us!

For we too, are sacred.
We too, are named holy.
And the meaning of our lives
is thanksgiving.

**Introduction: *Catherine***

We sing: AA26

1. **Come to our land, come to our hearts**

**Spirit of peace, Spirit of truth,**

**bring in the spring, the hope and the green,**

**Spirit of growth and Spirit of youth.**

**Refrain And all our people will sing together:**

 **Wairua Tapu, holy your name,**

 **there’s one great Spirit in all creation,**

 **one great Spirit of God!**

1. **Come to our land, come to our hearts**

**Spirit of life, breath of new birth,**

**teach us to care for water and air,**

**nourish the seed and cherish the earth,**

1. **Come to our land, come to our hearts**

**Spirit of bush, Spirit of bird,**

**speak to the soul of Aotearoa**

**joy in your world, and joy in your Word,**

**Reading Greenness** from Aotearoa Psalms by Joy Cowley p10 ***Marilyn***

Dear God, there are times
when I hear your voice most clearly
in greenness: in the singing of sap,
the conversation of the leaves, the whisperings
of shoot and stem, root, sap and cell,
calling me back to creation
to feel again the freshness of you
running through everything
like a bright emerald current.

God of greenness, you know well my tendency
to fill my life with my own methods of communication.
Thank you for constantly returning me to the simplicity of yours.
Again I experience you in the rejoicing
of bare feet on a damp forest path,
in the wonder of light thrown against
a kaleidoscope of tree ferns,
in the myriad textures of moss-clad trees,
in the shining of you beneath every surface.

Beloved Creator, coming to our greenness
is always a coming home,
a time of peace and grace
as the unimportant in me falls away
and I know again that bright green shoot
of my own beginning
which comes from you
and is one with you,
bright and beautiful God.

**Introduction: *Catherine***

We sing: Touch the earth lightly AA143

**1 Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,**

**Agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster --
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God’s garden,
hope in God’s children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**4 God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.**

**Introduction *Catherine***

***We sing: Where mountains rise Shirley Murray/Colin Gibson*** *AA 155 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!**

***Prayers of Intercession Lynnor***

***Offering*** To dedicate our offering, let us sing this hymn, which is a firm favourite of many congregations both in NZ and abroad.

***AA127 WB 73*  Shirley Murray, Colin Gibson**

**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!**

**2. Take the fruit that I have gathered**

 **from the tree your Spirit sowed,**

 **harvest of your own compassion,**

 **juice that makes the wine of God,**

 **spiced with humour, laced with laughter -**

 **flavour of the Jesus life,**

 **tang of risk and new adventure,**

 **taste and zest beyond belief.**

**3. Take whatever I can offer -**

 **gifts that I have yet to find,**

 **skills that I am slow to sharpen,**

 **talents of the hand and mind,**

 **things made beautiful for others**

 **in the place where I must be:**

 **take my gifts and let me love you,**

 **God who first of all loved me.**

***Reading The Night Sky*** *from Psalms for the Road Joy Cowley p39* ***Val***

Oh God, when I stand under the stars
I am filled with nameless awe
at the immensity of your presence
and I wonder how, in my daily thinking
I can make you so small.
Oh Holy One, the All of existence
How can I claim to know your mind?
How can my tiny words describe the Word
that brought this universe into being?
Could it be that I worship an idol
of my own making?
In your all-pervading presence, you know
The limitations of the human heart.
Have you given us this night sky,
this vision of galaxies growing and unfolding,
to remind us that we have two gods
one that we make in our image
and the One who made us?
Oh God, I stand under the stars
filled with nameless awe.

**Introduction: *Val***

Our final hymn picks up on the themes of care for the earth, and delight in the night sky, as depicted in Joy Cowley’s poem.

***We sing* –** God of the galaxies spinning in space, *AA 54 Cheam*

**God of the galaxies spinning in space,**  *AA 54 Cheam*

**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***

**Introduction:** (Please be seated)  ***Catherine***

**Sending (please remain seated)** HS122

**Something beautiful for God,
in my seeing,
in my being,
something beautiful for God
let the Spirit make of me.**

**Something only I can be,
in my choosing
or refusing,
something only I can be
let the Spirit work in me.**

**Something meaningful and true,
in my living
and believing,
something meaningful and true,
something beautiful and new**

***Blessing Sally***

Please stand as we conclude our service saying together the final blessing.

**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.**

***Sing:* AMEN x 3** CH4 #819

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

**Readers in order of appearance:** *Catherine Macdonald, Sally Spence, Deborah Loew-Black, Marilyn Matthews***,** *Val Hall, Lynnor Cooke.*

 **Organist:** *David Russell.*

*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:** **Jan 26th & Feb 2nd 2025** Climatic disasters. GPP and the Congregational Meeting on Feb 9th with the decision on our future as a Parish. Give us strength, patience and understanding to explore options. Those awaiting/undergoing surgery, and recovery. Families. Those facing loss. Thanks to God for His love.

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

**Commission contact**: Commission Convenor *Rob McIntosh,* **email***rob.mcintosh02@gmail.com***, or****Phone** *0274411392 to arrange a time to talk further*

**DIARY**

**SUNDAY 26** **EPIPHANY 3**

**10.00 St Andrew’s Worship Service**

**Matawhero– no service**

Monday 27 **Anniversary Day**

Tuesday 28 10.00am Open Door 109 Ormond Road

Friday 31 1.00pm Choir rehearsals resume for 2025

**SUNDAY 2 Feb** **EPIPHANY 4 Mike Cotton**

**10.00am St. Andrew’sCommunion**

**Matawhero No service**

**Coming up:**

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

In preparation of report to the Commission

**Note:**

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

mainly music resumes Wednesday 12 February

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Reader | Door & Team | Morning Tea | Sound Visual |
| 12 JanuaryEpiphany 1Sr Cynthia Kearney | **Matawhero**No service**St Andrew’s** Alvin Hall  | **Seton Clare**Dianne Burrows | Lyn Griffiths | S&V: DonC:Don |
| 26 JanuaryEpiphany 3 | **Matawhero**No service**St Andrew’s** Marilyn Matthews  | **Jenny Lawton**Don McConnochie | Lapointe family | S&V: LindaC: Don |
| 2 February Epiphany 4Mike Cotton Communion | **Matawhero**No service**St Andrew’s** June Stichbury | **Pat Flockhart**Linda Savage | Ruth McLennan | S&V: AlanC: Hans |

**Communion elders** for 2 February 2025**: Don McConnochie,**

**Jenny Lawton,** Wendy Morris, Chrissie Parker

 ***Gisborne Presbyterian Parish***

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

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

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