



ORDER OF SERVICE

3 January 2021

Christmas 2 “Mothering God”



Welcome to St Andrew's on The Terrace

Wherever you are on your faith journey,
wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to,
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here.

Please join in the congregational responses printed in **bold** / *italics*,
and stand, if you are able, for the hymns and the offering prayer.

We usually sing the hymns without announcement.

To use the loop system in the church, turn your hearing aids on to the appropriate setting.

Please note your nearest fire exit.

The church and hall have been earthquake strengthened.
In an earthquake: drop, cover and hold.

Today's service is led by Bronwyn White

MUSIC for Gathering

'Prayer for the New Year'

Words: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam*

Tune 'Ring Out, Wild Bells'/'Carol of the Bells': Crawford Gates & Mykola Leontovych
performed by Kat Tingey

GATHERING

A New Year for Beloved Community

—Debra Haffner

Happy new year!

Happy new year for our beloved community.

We gather together at the start of this new year

as people of many ages

as people of many sexual orientations and gender identities

as people of many races and ethnicities

as people of many theologies and religious backgrounds

woven together in our love for this community.

With our hopes and dreams and prayers for the year before us

With our hearts and minds and spirits ready

to be touched by the year before us

With our hands and time and talents ready

to be offered in the year before us.

We gather together at the start of this new year

with gratitude and love

for those who have come before us,

for those who stand here with us.

May it be a good year. May it be a sweet year.

Come, let us worship together.

HYMN

'Where is the room?'

Carol our Christmas 48

Music: © 1993 David Dell. Words: ©1992 Shirley Murray

Where is the room,
where is the house of Christmas?
Where shall we welcome Jesus,
where are the signs of home?
Where are the signs of home?

Let Christ have space,
place at the heart of living,
centre of birth's new breathing,
cradle for hope and peace,
cradle for hope and peace.

Let there be room,
room for the friend and stranger,
room without hurt or anger,
room for whoever come,
room for whoever come.

Let love be here,
love from the Christmas stable,
love at our open table,
love to be shared all year,
love to be shared all year.

WELCOME

Ngā mihi o te tau hou! **Happy New Year!**
Kia ora tatou. **Kia ora.**

GREETING EACH OTHER—*please remain seated*

We greet the people sitting beside us, then listen in silence—or join in singing quietly:

MUSIC

'Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth'

Lyrics: Julian of Norwich; adapted by Jean Wiebe Janzen
performed by The Concordia Choir

PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace be with you
And also with you.
Peacefulness to the people
and peace to the land.

My friends, we have arrived: we are here, in this new year.

We have crossed the boundary of time, into the next year, with all its resolutions and plans and schedules ahead of us.

Let us pause, for just this moment, before we move boldly onward.

Let us pause to hear the breathing of those around us, to feel their presence in this room; to know their presence in our lives.

Let us pause to consider the trees, their branches [with summer leaf], their elegant architecture on display.

Let us pause to feel the spirit of life and love that ties us to each other, that winds its way through our very bones and settles in our hearts.

Before we move forward, armed with resolutions that will shortly be forgotten in the day-to-day of living, let us notice what it is that remains every year, every day. What exists beyond schedules and months, beyond time. It welcomes us to life, not just at the start of the year, but every day.

And let us answer.

(We say together a reinterpretation of The Jesus Prayer, created for Aotearoa in the 21st Century)

A NEW PRAYER

Bronwyn White

Creating, Evolving, Nurturing Spirit

*We honour the mana of naming, describing and bringing-into-being
through the power of Breath and Word.*

*The ground on which we stand is holy, Whenua Tapu,
a place of mana tangata, where we show leadership
in care for the rights of all people;
a commonwealth of justice and liberation.*

*We are thankful for our resources:
we will be generous in sharing with others,
gracious in learning from others.*

*May we not offend when we mean to welcome,
not interject when we need to listen.*

*We let go of past hurts and memories which scar us—
things we have done, things done to us,
harmful attitudes we have absorbed.*

*We will be mindful, not falling back into negative patterns,
as we learn new ways of being,
a new appreciation of our full humanity.*

*We focus on things that are life-giving and true,
rejecting defensiveness and cynicism.*

*We live in the abundance of the universe:
the sustenance of our mother the earth,
the nurture of our father the sky,
the oxygen-breath of forest, the manaakitanga of land.*

*For this is our promise today, our aspiration for tomorrow
and our dream for the future.*

Kia kaha te mahi! Amen

LIGHTING THE RAINBOW CANDLE

We light the Rainbow candle each week to symbolise our inclusive community, and in particular, the importance of children in our congregation.

HYMN

'I am the light of the world' (WOV 669)

Words: Howard Thurman and Jim Strathdee Music © 1969 Jim Strathdee

Chorus

I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun!

Chorus

2. To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above!

Chorus

3. To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old man's heart,
And sing to the colours of the earth!

Chorus

OFFERING

*We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table, and those which wing
their way electronically from our banks to the church's account.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer at New Year

Tim Atkins

As we share our gifts of money & food & time:

**May we all be grounded in living our values in the coming year.
May we all spread our wings to new heights in the coming year.
May the fire of our commitment to our ethical values
burn brighter than before.
And may we all be authentically ourselves in the coming year.
Amen**

THE WORD IN TEXTS

Gospel

Paraphrased verses from John 1

Historical reading

*from Revelations of Divine Love
Julian of Norwich (c.1374)*

Contemporary reading

*Suddenly there is light all around
Bronwyn Angel White, You who delight me*

Gospel—paraphrased verses from John 1

In the beginning was El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient;
Sophia—Divine Wisdom—was with God,
and Shekinah—the feminine, earthly aspect—was God...

What she brought into being is life, and her life is the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it...

She came into the world, and the world came into being through her;
yet the world did not acknowledge her.

She came to what was her own, and her own people did not accept her.
But those who welcomed her, who believed in her,
she empowered and made children of God,
not born of blood or of human desire or human will,
but of El Shaddai.

And the Word became embodied and lives among us.
We experience her glory and wisdom,
know her grace and truth.

Historical reading

from Dame Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* (c1374)

Our Saviour is our true Mother in whom we are endlessly born and out of whom we shall never come...
And when we fall, God quickly lifts us up, leaping out into our lives like a mother playing peek-a-boo
with her child, reassuring the baby with her touch.
And when we have been strengthened by God's action in our lives, then we choose with all our
consciousness to serve God and be God's lovers, endlessly.

A contemporary reading from You who delight me

Suddenly there is light all around
and the silences
of morning

a small town
waking
birds
distant cattle
work-bound traffic on the road outside
voices, muted and curious
laughter, footsteps

Such an ordinary light
skimming a cup
nudging the rim of a bowl
gilding one wooden arm
 of an old chair
dust spangling in sunshine

The smell of grass, baled hay

and wood smoke
bread fresh from a nearby oven
earth
and blood
and new milk

And the brightness
the dizzying, commonplace brilliance of

oh! falling in love:
the universe contracts
into a blessed trinity

of elbow, breast and fontanel

RESPONSE

Michelle L Torigian

The light shines in dimness

And dimness did not overtake the light

The light shines in each space.

No gloom, no despair will overtake it.

The light shines in our souls.

The shadows of life did not shade Divine light.

We celebrate the light of Christ

***A steadfast presence from the beginning
which will shine through the end of time.***

REFLECTION: "Mothering God"

Bronwyn White

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S

*Renew your people, God,
and renew our life in this place.*

*Give us a new spirit of unity
with all who follow the Way of Jesus
and new bonds of love
with people of other faiths.*

*Bless the city in which we live
that it may be a place
where honest dealing,
good government,
the desire for beauty,
and the care for others flourish.*

*Bless this church
that what we know of your will
may become what we do,
and what we believe
the strong impulse
of our worship and work.
Amen*

HYMN

'Light of lights behoden' (AA 89)

Indigo II—Words & music by Jenny McLeod ©1983

Reprinted with permission under One License A-623996. All rights reserved

Light of lights behoden
we from days of olden
sang this song
for to understand
that peace upon this planet
was pledged to come.

Each to other, sister, brother,
born for life and song,

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

Darkness all around us,
light has always found us,
light will come
where the dark is deepest,
greater light will keep us
safe from harm.

Troubled times will always find
a voice of trouble doom,

*Look towards the light and carry on:
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong,
let the simple heart and hope among us
keep our family strong.*

BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Cara Heafey

***Let us look for Christ wherever we go
Let us never stop seeking
Believing that there is a light that shines in the darkness
Which the darkness shall not overcome.***

BENEDICTION

Go into this new year with courage.
Follow a star that's twinkling with curiosity
blazing with possibility
leading to places you've dreamed of finding.

Know as you midwife and mother and bring forth
the Righteous Kindom
the Beloved Community
that Love—Mother, Christa, Sophia—
surrounds you every moment of every day.

So go in peace, to love and to serve
this day and always—

SUNG THREEFOLD AMEN