

*St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Hamilton*



23 December 2018 – Advent 4 – Love

9.30am Kiwi Service – Rev Ken Wall

Piano: Shirley Harland

11.30am Korean Service – Rev Tae Ju Ham

St Andrew's Mission

To worship
and work with God
in the world



St Andrew's Vision

A bridge to the city ...
where love
and friendship meet

Call to worship

Today we gather to sing in words ancient and modern

The parables of new life we have heard all our lives

Stories of courage and delight and purpose

Stories of fear and shadows and pain

Stories which echo our lives and our times

Stories of unconditional love and intentional grace

Hymn – O Little Town of Bethlehem (WOV 240)

Opening responses

The journey continues on which we are invited to travel

Taking each step is an adventure

Many walk this journey together

Each seeking transformation

Let us trust the new life journeying brings

New life for you and for me and for all the world

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Read a Partner Story from South India: For Gender Equality

For years, most south Indian girls suffered in silence. Their brothers ate the best food, attended school and did fewer chores. When they grew up, the same patterns continued. It was not fair. The number of violent attacks on women are increasing. EKTA has been a lifeline to men and women wanting change. They do the research, educate men and women about gender, and run successful campaigns to stop discrimination based on gender and make the city of Madurai safer. Already they have lobbied local government to set up a desk at a major bus station to help children who are lost or in danger of being trafficked.



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Be the Lifeline to women and men seeking safety and fairness.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

For those who look for love, but are abused,

for those who have lost family and friends,

for those who live where there is strife or war,

we light the Candle of Love.

Light the candle

**You, Lord Jesus, renew our love,
and pour love into the world.
May this light signal a breakthrough,
a brighter future,
A new order and a better way.**



Sing – A Candle is Burning (tune Away in a Manager WOV 242)

Elizabeth stands beside the Advent wreath and begins to speak:

"She came to see me today – Mary. It was so good to be with her! She is getting close to the time when she will give birth, and she needed a shoulder to lean on. A pregnancy is not an easy thing. With each choice you make, you are suddenly thinking about two lives instead of one. What to eat? How much can I carry? What position is best for sleep to come? Will I do a good job of taking care of this new child?

"I know about all these questions, because I'm pregnant as well! After all these years of waiting, I am finally going to be a mother. Most of my friends are grandmothers. They shake their heads when they see me, but I don't mind. It will be nice to have a friend like Mary to go through this with. – even though she is so young. She could be my daughter. You know, she held onto my hands the whole time we talked. It was reassuring for her and for me, too! She had so many questions. I answered them as best I could. I told her that women have tried to support each other through this process from generation to generation. There will always be others out there who will share their experience, wisdom and kindness. And that includes me! But the main thing I talked to her about was when it comes to children, it is always about choosing love. When I told her that, she got a big smile on her face. 'I do love this baby,' she said to me. I told her that she has already figured out how to be a great mother. And she is going to be a wonderful mother. I can see it in her – she has the perfect combination of courage and compassion. I only wish I could be there to hold her hand during the birth." *Elizabeth exits.*

The fourth candle that we have lit today is all about the "choice of love".

We welcome and greet one another: Kia ora tatou – Welcome to worship –
An-nyeoung ha-se-yo? Kam na mauri – Kia orana – Nimen hao – Selamat datang
– Talofa lava – Namaste – Malo e lelei – Namaskaram – Salaam – Bula Vinaka

Notices

Hymn – Come Now, Lord Jesus (COC 14, tune AA23ii)

Gospel reading (Max Dawson) – Luke 1:39-55 (GNT)

The story that we know as The Visitation is so familiar that we may miss the unusual. Mary appears to travel alone to the hill country – something highly unusual for the time – suggesting strong bonds of love between the two kinswomen. Normally their discussion would be seen as women's business – certainly not worth recording in such detail. Elizabeth acknowledges Mary's faith

and obedience to God's will. Mary displays this in the words from Luke 1:46-55, which form the Magnificat, a revolutionary song of liberation. These powerful words of hope have provided strength for many people living in violent places where hunger is present.

Sermon

The offering will be received as we sing ...

Hymn – There's a Light Upon the Mountains (WOV 207)

Dedication of offering

*Prayer of gratitude and concern (Pauline Milroy) after which we will sing
The Lord's Prayer (WOV 676)*

Hymn – O Come, All You Faithful (WOV 228)

Sending forth

We travel together
towards the new birth, towards the new start.
We follow the signs which show us the way
**to do what is right,
to seek justice,
to walk humbly with God.
We go in peace. Amen.**

Benediction and three-fold Amen

We invite you to join us for morning tea or coffee and a chat in the Mary Bryant Commons. We hope you enjoyed worshipping with us; please sign the Visitors' Book at the back of the church. We want you to feel at home here, so feel free to join our activities. If you would like to know more about St Andrew's or to explore membership options, please take one of our information pamphlets.



New Year's Eve Service

at St Clare's Co-operating Church, 97 Tuhikaramea Road, Dinsdale

Monday 31 December at 9.00pm

ALL WELCOME

2 Corinthians 9:7 – God loves a cheerful giver (NKJV)

St Andrew's depends on the generous giving of members and friends.

If you would like to make a donation or support our work through planned giving, please contact the Church Office.

THIS WEEK AT ST ANDREW'S

Monday 24 December – Christmas Eve

9.00pm Candlelight service

Tuesday 25 December – Christmas Day

9.30am Kiwi Christmas service

11.30am Korean Christmas service

Sunday 30 December

9.30am Kiwi service

11.30am Korean service

Is there someone you can share this publication with? Please take another copy of this bulletin to put in their letterbox.

Read **BUSH TELEGRAPH** to keep up with what's happening in our national church. Go to www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph or read the copy in the church library.

Rosters	23 December	30 December
Service Elder	Jim Findlay	Ailsa Petrie
Convenor	Janice Wedde	Jean Kapoor
Hall Set-Up	Graeme & Marian Carmichael	Peter Bayne & David Barrowclough
Finance	Boyd & Evelyn Weir	Fraser Annals
AV Operator	David Roberts	Graeme Kitto
Piano	Shirley Harland	N/A
Bible Reader	Max Dawson	Ros Ramsbottom
Intercessory Prayer	Pauline Milroy	Lance Kendrick
Morning Tea	Beryl and Ross Williams	Marian & Graeme Carmichael



Rosters	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Service Elder	Marian Carmichael	Marian Carmichael
Convenor	Pauline Milroy	David Barrowclough
Hall Set-Up	Graeme & Marian Carmichael	Graeme & Marian Carmichael
Finance	N/A	Wynne Dymock
AV Operator	Gavin Petrie	Gavin Petrie
Piano	Phyllipa Fraser	Phyllipa Fraser
Bible Reader	Alison Ringer	Elaine Riddell

CBA Christmas Programming



Christmas Eve

6pm-9pm: Frank Ritchie & Jax van Buuren
9pm-12midnight: John Cowan

Christmas Day

6am-9am: The Crazy Kiwi Christmas Kids Show
9am-10am: Whostalk ZB
10am-1pm: Peter Wolfkamp & Tash McGill
1pm-4pm: Frank Ritchie
4pm-5pm: The Best of Real Life with John Cowan
5pm-6pm: Petra Bagust

Christmas Eve

7pm-8pm: Carly Flynn & friends from Parenting Place
8pm-12midnight: Hayden Rickard & Catherine Sylvester

Christmas Day

6am-9am: Luke Weston & Sherryn Tai
9am-12noon: Roman Travers



'Like' us on Facebook!



We would like to encourage you to 'Like' St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hamilton's Facebook page. The more 'Like's we get, the more people get to know about St Andrew's.

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator

Elaine Riddell
(ph 834 2488, email a.e.riddell@gmail.com)



Christian World Service Christmas Appeal 2018

Advent 4: 23 December – LOVE

A Christian World Service Partner Story from South India

Some of the experiences of women and children in the city of Madurai are described in today's candle-lighting liturgy.



Will you “Be the Lifeline” for communities such as these, working for gender equality? A Christian World Service Christmas Appeal envelope was inserted in our Church’s summer newsletter, The Bridge. More envelopes are available from the Parish Noticeboard in the Mary Bryant Commons. Or, see further information at christmasappeal.org.nz.

Christian World Service is the official international aid-agency of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand





Health & Safety
Please note where the Exits
and Evacuation Point are located



LINK HOUSE FOOD BANK



Collections for the food bank have ceased for 2018.
Link House is now closed
and re-opens on Monday 15 January.

**St Andrew's next collection will be on
Sunday 14 January.** We'll publish a reminder!

Social and Ecumenical Action Committee

Lectionary Readings



Christmas Eve
24 December 2018
Is 9:2-7
Ps 96
Titus 2:11-14
Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)

Christmas Day
25 December 2018
Is 52:7-10
Ps 98
Heb 1:1-4, (5-12)
Jn 1:1-14

30 December 2018
1 Sam 2:18-20, 26
Ps 148
Col 3:12-17
Lk 2:45-52

Transitional Minister

Rev Ken Wall – ph 856 3331 (res), mob 027 321 2721
email: kandswall@xtra.co.nz

Korean Minister

Rev Ham Tae Ju - ph 855 0020 (direct office line), mob 021 044 5192
email: kiorahill@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk

Elaine Riddell – ph 834 2488

Associate Parish Clerk

Sue Dymock – ph 855 3313

OFFICE HOURS CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

Church Office

Closed from Saturday 22 December 2018
Re-opens on Monday 21 January 2019

The Link

Closed from Saturday 22 December 2018
Re-opens on Monday 7 January 2019