St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hamilton



29 November 2026 – Advent 1

9.30am Kiwi Communion Service – Rev Kelly Gilson

Organ: Charles Mandor

11.30am Korean Communion 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

This service is streamed on https://www.facebook.com/St.AndrewsPresbyterianHamilton

Welcome to worship; Kia ora tatou; 환영합니다 (hwan-yeonghabnida); An-nyeoung ha-se-yo?; Akwaaba; Banuram; Bula Vinaka; Emedi o; Kedu! Nnoo; Kia orana; Malo e lelei; Namaste; Nimen hao; Salaam; Talofa lava; Welkom

**Please stand as you are able*

Advent Candle Litany (Butch and Rianna Rothman)* – Candle of Hope
We light the candle of hope this morning. (The candle is lit)
We wait. Our souls long for a sign of new life.
We hope with the sick.
We hope with the hungry.
We hope with the poor.
We hope with the angry.
We hope with those who hunger and thirst
for the healing of our wounded planet.
We hope with those who give their lives to the quest for justice.
We wait in hope for a new birth.

*Hymn** – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(WOV 193, tune Veni Emmanuel WOV 193)

Prayer of thanksgiving and confession (Minister)

*Recite** – The Lord's Prayer

Welcome, notices and community time

Children's moment

*Hymn** – Sing of Andrew, John's Disciple
(CH4 339, tune Abbot's Leigh WOV 93)

Bible reading (Karen Gow) – Isaiah 64:1-8 (NRSV)

Sermon – Those Who Wait

*Offertory/communion hymn**
– Child in the Manger
(CH4 314, tune Bunessan WOV 241)

*Dedication of the offering**

Prayers for others (Marilyn Orchard)

*Hymn** – When Out of Poverty is Born
(CH4 291, tune Kingsford WOV 500)

*Benediction**
**May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all,
now and forever more. Amen.**

Lectionary Readings



6 December 2026
Advent 2

Is 40:1-11

Ps 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mk 1:1-8

Following the worship service, organists usually play a postlude (music as we exit). You are welcome to stay seated in your pew to listen to it played through. Equally, please feel free to leave the church for your other commitments.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday 13 December at 10.30am

A Special Congregational Meeting is being held to approve the Parish Governance Structure and Parish Mission Plan 2026-2031.

Women's Group Christmas Gathering

Monday 7 December at 6.00pm

Margaret and Peter Gault's home, 37 Kakanui Avenue, Hillcrest

Please bring a dish to share (an indication of the contents would be helpful in menu planning!). BYO drinks, and partners too!

We look forward to seeing you all soon. Come to enjoy fellowship and a celebration of another "well lived" year!

RSVP your intention to attend, if possible

Margaret (ph 856 3923) and Chris (mob 021 460 834)

Christmas Pageant Practice!

Youth and children are invited to join Rev Kelly for rehearsals at **11.00am on Sundays 22 and 29 November**. The pageant will be performed during our combined service on 6 December. An adult member from the congregation is needed to play "Grandma". Please speak to Kelly if you are interested!

Men's Gathering
Thursday 3 December 2026

in The Link

WOMEN WELCOME

Photographer ***Abir Subbir Hossain***

will introduce himself through **"Memories Through Photographs"** – exploring how photographs are not just about capturing moments, but can also take us back to memories, stories and experiences from long ago

We will have a light meal at **6.30pm** (koha please) before Abir presents his illustrated talk at 7.00 pm

For catering purposes, please let me know by Tuesday 1 December if you will attend
graemekitto1945@gmail.com

Missing Tray



Have you seen a black plastic tray with grey non-slip dots? It's similar to the one pictured (left) and is approximately 45cm long. If you have it or know where it is, please contact Marilyn Orchard on mob 021 0230 0490.

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, our church BNZ bank account details are:

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church - Hamilton 02-0316-0046144-000

(Please include your Name or Giving Number in the Reference)

If you would like to use planned giving, please contact the Church Office (ph 854 9737)

THIS WEEK AT ST ANDREW'S

TODAY Sunday 29 November (Advent 1)
11.00am Christmas Pageant practice (see notice opposite)

Monday 30 November (St Andrew's Day)
9.30am Mini Movers

Tuesday 1 December
10.00am Bowls group
7.00pm Parish Council meeting

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator
Elaine Riddell
(mob 027 489 6938, email a.e.riddell@gmail.com)

Thursday 3 December
9.30am *Let's Pray* prayer group in church lounge
6.30pm Men's Fellowship dinner in The Link (see notice opposite)

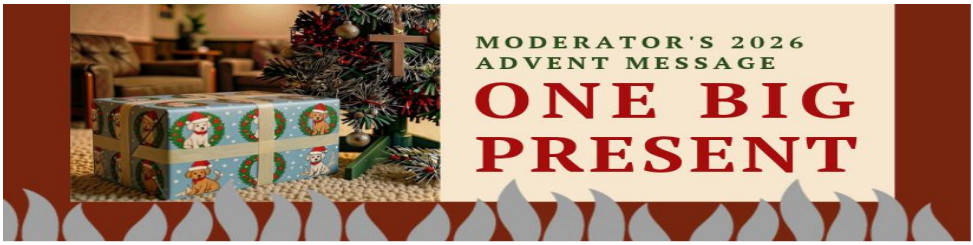
Friday 4 December
5.00pm Proud Pray-ers

Saturday 5 December
11.00am Choir practice

Sunday 6 December (Advent 2)
10.30am St Andrew's Combined Christmas Pageant service

Rosters	29 November	6 December
Service Elder	Rianna Rothman	Rianna Rothman
Convenor	Butch Rothman	Butch Rothman
Door duty	Reiner van der Nest	Reiner van der Nest
Finance	Fraser Annals	Ross & Beryl Williams
AV Operator Streaming Operator	David Roberts Butch Rothman	Ross Williams Jerome Chuang
Organ/Piano	Charles Mandor	Charles Mandor
Bible Reader	Karen Gow	Marilyn Orchard
Intercessory Prayer	Marilyn Orchard	Henry Ota
Morning Tea	Ros Ramsbottom & Anne Jolly	Margaret & Peter Gault

"Like" us on Facebook!
"Like" St's Presbyterian Church Hamilton's Facebook page (http://tiny.cc/FBStAndrewsHnNZ)



As a child I loved Christmas and the build up to it. The expectation, the excitement that was focused on Christmas Day and the Christmas presents. We had a plastic fold-up Christmas tree with flashing lights and a place for presents under the tree. Money was tight for us as a family, so we got one big present and a few smaller ones that came from grandparents and the like.

My father was a minister in a rural parish that would combine its services at one of the four churches in the parish. The chosen church was always full, and then most people went home for their Christmas dinner.

Christmas Day was a Holy Day, like Sundays, with farm work stopping except for essentials. Cut hay would wait for bailing until Boxing Day, and if Boxing Day was a Sunday, until Monday. No-one went on holiday until Boxing Day.

Because of going to church, we were allowed to open one of the 'little presents' to show-off at church with the rest of the kids, but the big present stayed under the tree until after church. It was never thought of as being mean to children back then but is pretty much something that happened last century. The present opening was a family thing and very special. I remember getting a big metal Tonka dump truck that lasted for years.

The Christmas story was told and was part of my Christmas upbringing that I never questioned, along with many other stories from the Bible I have carried with me and can recite anytime. In a sense, Christmas and the lead up to the celebrating of it was the beginning, with other things of course, of all the threads that came together when I came to faith in Jesus as the Son of God for myself. To say I never questioned deeply the story of God coming to earth in human form in the person of Jesus would be falsity. That was part of my personal faith journey that came after my childhood faith. And as the threads pulled tight on the incarnation it has been part of my world view for many years.

This is my first year in ministry that I am not preaching during Advent because I have a new colleague in ministry who is taking the load of parish ministry while I'm Moderator. Nevertheless, the season of Advent will remain a devotional time for me. I have never followed the lectionary religiously but have used its readings for both Advent and Lent. The

PCANZ uses the Common Lectionary, this year it is Year B – Mark – 2026/27.

The Lectionary began its life in North America and Canada, brought together by the ecumenical liturgical body known as the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT). These are worth a Google search. Taken together the readings can be very challenging on any of the Sundays in Advent. The lectionary introduces Advent as, "The season of preparation which begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and in which the church recalls its hope and expectancy in the comings of Christ, past, present and future." Advent kicks off examining the human condition and God's response looking forward to the second coming of Christ. Not readings for the timid preacher.

The Advent readings are about the second coming of Christ, the role of John the Baptiser, visiting angels, the Virgin Mary conceiving a child whose father is supernatural, plenty of topics to present as the beginning of the Christian narrative. I have found it beneficial to preach the text and let it speak to our questions and doubts about the authenticity of what the Scriptures present to us. What the Scriptures give opportunity for is personal and corporate revelation. The time when all the threads of certainty and uncertainty, confidence and doubt, myth and fact, mystery and reality pull together into an "aha" moment and you know in your knower that the Holy Spirit has spoken clearly. I believe over many years of that process happening.

One last story. Time has flown, but 16 years ago my wife Helen and I spent six weeks in the country of Jordan on study leave on an archaeological dig. We stayed in the capital city of Amman. It was during the time of the ISIS war in Syria and some aspects of our time in Jordan were affected by that. Every working day we were driven in a bus down into the Jordan valley to a place not far from where the Jordan River enters the Dead Sea.

Amman had about 3 million people and was crowded. There are no parks or playgrounds. The multi-storied terrace housing goes on and on.

Jordan is a moderate Muslim country although Christians were treated like second-class citizens in many respects. We arrived in early January just after the Orthodox Christian Christmas they celebrate on January 6. As we drove through urban areas, Christian houses and apartments had banners and decorations hanging out their windows. Not many in the context of a city like Amman, but enough to witness to the city that Christ the Messiah was born. The incarnation and the birth of Jesus is not only common for Christians across the world; the same story is told as the beginning chapter of the Christian faith.

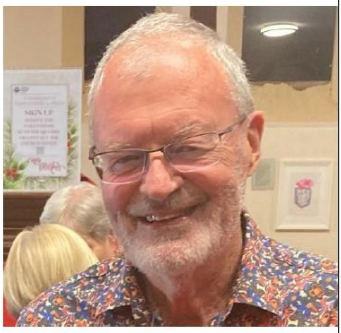
Right Rev Peter Dunn
Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

From the 1st to the 21st Century

Can we be Good News today?

Rev Dr William Loader
Chartwell Co-operating Parish
Sunday, 29 November, 2026
1:30 – 3 pm.
Everyone welcome!

Bill shares his wisdom, ongoing learning and historical understanding with clarity, humour, and a desire for listeners to engage knowledge with relevance for faith's journey in today's world.



William R G Loader, FAHA, is a retired Uniting Church Minister living in Orange NSW, Australia.

He is Emeritus Professor of New Testament from Murdoch University, and a former Presbyter of the Methodist Church, NZ, ordained 1969.

A very readable author of over 30 books and many papers (English and some German), Bill has recently published commentaries on books of the New Testament for busy people, and provides weekly Lectionary commentaries and much else on his website: billloader.com

Hosted by the Waikato Waiariki Methodist Synod.
Please register with Ngaire Southon, email: ngaire@southon.net

St Andrew's
Presbyterian Church
Choir, Hamilton

Christmas Concert

Featuring selected choral pieces, solos and carols.

Date: Sunday Dec 13, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm

Venue: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Te Aroha street, Hamilton.

Come with friends and family.

Accommodation Wanted

Hamilton or near Hamilton

I'm a student at the University of Waikato, studying towards my **Master of Advanced Opera**, and I'm looking for suitable accommodation in or near Hamilton, please (for February to November 2027).

I'm open to a: self-contained studio or apartment; a bedroom with private bathroom facilities; or other suitable quiet accommodation in or around Hamilton.

I'm tidy, organised, independent, and very comfortable looking after my own cooking, cleaning and laundry. I'm respectful of other people's space and would make a considerate and reliable tenant or flatmate.

If you have anything available, or know of someone who might, I would love to hear from you.

Please contact Kay 022 687 3397

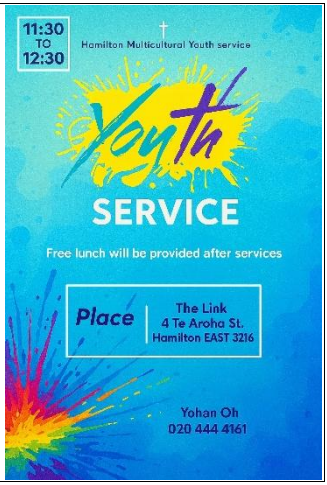
A Multicultural Youth Service

... is held weekly on **Sundays from 11.30am**. This service is for those who are younger – from Year 7 to young adults.

They also have a range of other fun activities at other times.

This is a great space to make friends and journey together with others in learning about our Christian faith.

Any questions – please contact
Rev Yohan on 020 444 4161



25 Bible Verses to Countdown to CHRISTMAS Day!

1
"God sent the angel Gabriel to a girl named Mary." Luke 1:26

2
"The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, because God is very pleased with you." Luke 1:30

3
"Listen! You will become pregnant and have a baby boy. You will name him Jesus." Luke 1:31

4
"He will be great. People will call him the Son of the Most High God." Luke 1:32

5
"Mary said," I am the Lord's servant. Let this thing you have said happen to me!" Luke 1:38

6
"Caesar sent out an order... that everyone's name must be put on a list." Luke 2:1

7
"Everyone traveled to their hometowns to have their name put on the list." Luke 2:3

8
"So Joseph went to the town of David because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary." Luke 2:4-5

9
"while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son." Luke 2:6-7

10
"There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed." Luke 2:7

11
"That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep." Luke 2:8

12
"An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them." Luke 2:9

13
"The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some GOOD News!" Luke 2:10

14
"Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord." Luke 2:11

15
"This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box." Luke 2:12

16
"All the angels were praising God, saying, "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God." Luke 2:13-14

17
"So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby." Luke 2:16-17

18
"Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen & heard." Luke 2:20

19
"After Jesus was born, some wise men came from the east." Matthew 2:1

20
"When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy." Matthew 2:10

21
"They went to the house... and they bowed down and worshiped the child." Matthew 2:11

22
"They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

23
"A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. His name will be... Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

24
"for God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16

www.happyhomefairy.com

25
Happy Birthday Jesus!

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"
2 Corinthians 9:15



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



LINK HOUSE FOOD BANK

For the three weeks from 29 November until 13 December inclusive, we'd like to encourage you to take up the theme of **Christmas Treats**. Your contributions might include tinned pineapple and other fancy fruits, bottles of grape juice, chocolates, lollies and chippies, crackers, nuts, a commercial Christmas cake, mince pies ... Staff will make up special hampers customised for each family. Your food can certainly help to brighten their Christmas tables. Please bring long-life items, with the original packaging intact.

You can, of course, donate any other sort of food instead. If you have surplus fresh fruit or veges, please phone Link House on 839 1051 to see if your produce could be of immediate use.



We advise use of paper bags, not plastic.
St Andrew's collection basket is in the foyer as you come in for worship. Your help is much appreciated.

Thank you for all that you do

Lisa Herbison,
Single Parent Services Waikato

Minister
Rev Kelly Gilson
Ph 854 9737 (bus), Mob 022 427 5123
Email: kgilsondancer@gmail.com

Korean Minister
Rev Ham Tae Ju
Ph 855 0020 (DDI), Mob 021 044 5192
Email: kiorahill@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk
Alison Ringer – ph 027 346 3691

Multicultural Youth Minister
Rev Yohan Oh
Mob 020 444 4161
Email: oh870109@gmail.com

The Link Manager (Mon to Fri 8.00am–5.00pm)
Ian Jamieson – ph 855 3190 (DDI)
Email: manager@standrewshamilton.org.nz

Church Office (Mon to Fri 9.00am–3.30pm)
Secretary: Jacky Overdevest – ph 854 9737
Email: office@standrewshamilton.org.nz
Website: www.standrewshamilton.org.nz
Streamed Kiwi service: https://www.facebook.com/St.AndrewsPresbyterianHamilton

Deadline for bulletin notices: Wednesday (9.00am)