



# WELCOME TO KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

*growing in courage to live the Jesus way*

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## Advent Four – An Antipodean Christmas 10am – 20 December 2015



Pre service *“The Star proclaims the king is here”*

Flor Peeters (1903-86)

*“As with gladness”*

Flor Peeters (1903-86)

*“Once in Royal David’s city”* music for pencil and organist

George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

Welcome

Introit *“O Holy Night”*

Adolphe Adam (1803-56) arr. K Knudson

Tanara Stedman/ bass soloist

## Greeting

Kia noho a Ihowa kia koutou. May God be with you.

**Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. May God bless you.**

## Call to Worship

inspired by Psalm 146 and Luke 1:46-56

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

**And our spirits rejoice in you.**

We will praise you as long as we live.

**We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.**

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

**But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,**

the One who gives food to the hungry,

**the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.**

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

**As we worship you in this place and world.**

Let us worship God.

## Hymn “*O come all ye faithful*” (Adeste Fideles) CH4 306 John Francis Wade (c. 1711-86)

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the King of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2 God of God,  
Light of Light  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created; [*Refrain*]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God  
in the highest': [*Refrain*]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born for our salvation;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: [*Refrain*]

## Lighting of the Candle of Love

... Today we light a candle for Love

May this light shine on our way as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

1 Star-Child, earth-Child,  
go-between of God,  
love Child, Christ Child,  
heaven's lightning rod,

*this year, this year,  
let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes for everyone,  
everyone alive!*

2 Street child, beat child,  
no place left to go,  
hurt child, used child  
no one wants to know,  
*[Refrain]*

3 Grown child, old child,  
memory full of years,  
sad child, lost child,  
story told in tears,  
*[Refrain]*

4 Spared child, spoiled child,  
having, wanting more,  
wise child, faith child,  
knowing joy in store,  
*[Refrain]*

## Prayer of Praise and Confession, Assurance of Pardon

### Anthem *“Deck the hall with boughs of holly”*

English traditional carol  
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

### With young members

### Hymn *“Carol our Christmas”* AA9

words © Shirley Murray (b. 1931)  
music © Colin Gibson (b. 1933)

1 Carol our Christmas, an upside down  
Christmas;  
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.  
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ  
Child,  
warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.

#### **Women**

2 Sing of the gold and the green and the  
sparkle,  
water and river and lure of the beach.  
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,  
sing a nativity summer can reach!

#### **Men**

3 Shepherds and mustersers move over  
hillsides,  
finding, not angels but sheep to be shorn;  
wise ones make journeys whatever the  
season,  
searching for signs of the truth to be born.

#### **all**

4 Right side up Christmas belongs to the  
universe,  
made in the moment a woman gives birth;  
hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,  
everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.

Reading Micah 5: 2-5a

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church*

***Thanks be to God***

Gospel Luke 1: 39-55

*This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

***Praise to Christ the Word***

Hymn “*And did you see him, little star*” (Starsight) AA4

words © Helen Clyde (1867-1945), music © Colin Gibson (b. 1933)

1 And did you see him little star, long, long ago?

And was it you, I wonder, shone on manger low?

And did you see the shepherd men, when angels sang?

‘Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,’ the message rang.

2 And did you guide the three wise kings with shining light?

And bring them to the holy Child on that great night?

And will you still shine down on earth, though from afar,

and lead us back to Bethlehem, O little star?

Sermon “God in the flesh”

Hymn “*Child of Christmas Story*” (Incarnation) AA12

words © Shirley Murray (b. 1931)  
music © Richard Madden (b. 1953)

***Children only***

1 Child of Christmas story,  
stable, straw and star,  
small and sweet and gentle:  
tell us who you are.

***all***

2 Child whose baby finger  
round our own is curled,  
come to melt our hearts,  
and come to change the world.

***solo***

3 Child of Jew and Gentile,  
child of white and black –  
teach us how to love you,  
teach us what we lack.

***all***

4 Child of Mary’s courage,  
birthed in human pain,  
tell us what your name is –  
be our hope again.

Prayer

## Offering and Dedication during offering sing “*Hey Mary*”

© Malcolm & Sam Gordon

1 Hey Mary, there’s an angel in your house!  
Said, ‘Mary have I got some news for you.  
You seem to think you’re nothing much,  
but, Heaven’s coming close enough to touch, yeah!  
Hey Mary, God is coming here through you.’  
There is no such thing as ordinary now  
God is here  
Every life and breath is blessed  
you never know when God might appear.

2 Hey \_\_\_\_\_, there’s an angel in your house!  
Said, ‘\_\_\_\_\_ have I got some news for you.  
You seem to think you’re nothing much,  
but, Heaven’s coming close enough to touch, yeah!  
Hey Mary, God is coming here through you.’  
There is no such thing as ordinary now  
God is here  
Every life and breath is blessed  
you never know when God might appear.

## Notices

### Hymn “*Sing we a song of high revolt*” (O Tannenbaum)

words Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

1 Sing we a Song of High Revolt,  
Make great the Lord, God’s name exalt!  
Sing we the words of Mary’s song,  
Of God at war with human wrong.  
Sing we of One who deeply cares,  
Who still with us our burden shares,  
One who with strength the proud disowns,  
Pulls down the mighty from their thrones.

2 By God the poor are lifted up,  
God satisfies with bread and cup,  
The hungry ones of many lands;  
The rich are left with empty hands.  
God calls us to revolt and fight,  
With Christ for what is just and right,  
To sing and live Magnificat,  
In crowded street and council flat.

## Benediction and Threefold Amen

### Postlude “*Prelude on an Irish Tune*”

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

(Gartan = ‘Love Came Down at Christmas’), Op. 101 No. 5

## You are invited to morning tea in the Gathering Area

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