



WELCOME TO KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

growing in courage to live the Jesus way

Christmas Day

9:30am – 25 December 2015



Pre – service *“Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her”* (From Heaven High,
I Come to Here) Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)
“Fugue: Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her” (From Heaven High,
I Come to Here) BWV 700 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome

Introit *“God rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay”*
English traditional carol arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Greeting

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

Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. May God bless you.

Call to Worship

To us a child is born.

We have seen a great light, the light has dawned.

To us a son is given.

**The child of light will be called Mighty God,
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counsellor.**

A new ruler has brought a new realm.

The ruler will rule with justice and Love

Glory to God for this child born.

May the light shine in us for evermore.

Let us worship God.

Hymn “*O come all ye faithful*” (Adeste Fideles)

John Francis Wade (1711-86)

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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.*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest':
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2 God from God,
Light of Light
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created;
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

E te whanau ... all are God's beloved people.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

Lighting the Christ Candle

... Today we light the Christ candle

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

Shirley E Murray © 1994 Hope Publishing Co

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]*

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

6 Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine, *[Refrain]*

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-7

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise to Christ the Word

Anthem "Carol of the Nativity"

arr. Sara Brown (2014)

Hymn “*Christians awake*” (Stockport) TiS 306

John Byrom (1692-1763) © *Psalter Hymnal Handbook*

1 Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
whereon the Saviour of the world was born.
rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above,
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin’s son.

2 Like Mary, let us ponder in our mind
God’s wondrous love in saving humankind;
trace we the Babe, who has retrieved our
loss,
from the poor manger to the bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
until in heaven God’s people take their
place.

3 There may we hope, the angelic thrones
among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, unceasing we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven’s almighty King.

Gospel John 1: 1-14

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise to Christ the Word

Sing and enact

Hymn “*When God almighty came to be one of us*” (Keel Row) TiS 281

Michael Hewlett (1916-2000) © 1999 TiS

1 When God Almighty came to be one of
us,
masking the glory of his golden train,
dozens of plain things shared the
experience,
and they will never be the same again.
Sing all you midwives, dance all the
carpenters,
sing all the publicans and shepherds too.
God in his mercy uses the commonplace,
God on his birthday had a need of you.

2 Splendour of Rome and local authority,
working on policy with furrowed head,
joined to locate Messiah's nativity,
Just where the prophets had already said.
Sing all you tax-men, dance the
commissioners,
sing public servants and policemen too.
God in his purpose uses the governments,
God on his coming had a need of you.

3 Wise men, they called them, earnest
astrologers,
watching for meaning in the moving stars.
science or fancy, learned or laughable,
theirs was a vision that was brought to
pass.
Sing all you wise ones, dance all the
scientists,
whether your theories are false or true.
God uses knowledge, God uses ignorance,
God at his coming had a need of you.

4 Sing all creation, made for God's
purposes,
called by his providence to live and move:
none is unwanted, none insignificant,
Love needs a universe of folk to love:
young ones and maidens, old ones and
children,
black ones and coloured ones and white
ones too,
God at his coming, and to eternity,
God took upon himself the needs of you.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Others concluding with...

**Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
Now and forever:
AMEN**

Offering and Dedication *"Ding Dong, merrily on high"*

16th C French melody arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The offering today goes to the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

Notices

Hymn “*Hark the Herald Angels*” (Mendelssohn) TiS 303/CH4 301

tune Charles Wesley (1707-88)
music Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
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1 Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem’.
*Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King!*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
*Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King!*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity
pleased in human flesh to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King!*

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Postlude “*Toccata: O Come, all ye faithful*”

K Knudson (2013)

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A copy of this week’s sermon will be on the website, and printed copies available in the church, in the New Year.
Feel free to text, or email, Kerry with any thoughts about your response to the sermon.