



WELCOME TO KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

growing in courage to live the Jesus way

Advent 2 - Communion
10am – 6 December 2015



Pre service *“Noel”*
 “Infant Holy”
 “Of the Father’s Love begotten”

Georges Jacobs played by Grace Togneri

Keith Chapman (1945-89)

Flor Peeters (1903-86)

Welcome

Introit *“Children’s song of the Nativity”* English Traditional arr Sara Brown, text Frances Chesterton

Greeting

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

Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. May God bless you.

Call to Worship

Come, listen to the voice in scripture.

We lift up our voices in praise and thanks.

Come, pray with those who have no voice.

We worship in silence and song, with sincerity.

Come, worship God, the voice of love,

the voice that sings in us.

Let us worship God.

Hymn *“God of unexpected places”* (Hymn to Joy)

1 God of unexpected places,
God of stables and of stars,
long awaited...least expected
we're surprised by who you are.
You're our sisters' cry for justice,
neighbours' yearning to be free,
give us eyes to see your presence
where your coming's unforeseen.

2 Lord of skies, you walk among us,
in the plain brown soil of earth.
How you've chosen to be present
often seems of little worth.
you have chosen common bushes,
kindled them with heaven's fire,
spoken through unlikely prophets,
heralding your love's desire.

3 God, who might have come in glory,
chose instead a simpler way.
Did God want to try to teach us,
Advent happens every day?
Where and when our Saviour's coming?
How will God respond to pain?
Acts of giving in our living,
signal Christ is come again!

Prayer of Praise and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

We exchange a sign of peace with each other

Anthem *“Quem Pastores laudivere”*

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

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

... Today we light a candle for Peace

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]

With young members

Hymn “*Wild and lone the Prophet’s Voice*” (Aberystwyth) PH 409/CH4 133

words Carl P Daw, Jr., (b. 1944) © *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 1990
music Joseph Parry (184-1903) © Church Hymnary Trust

1 Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
yield your life to God's control.

3 With such preaching stark and bold
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

2 "Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise to Christ the Word

Sermon “Manufacturing uncertainty”

followed by a time of silence for reflection

Affirmation of Faith - *please stand*

**We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life
and be used by the spirit
for God’s new community of hope. Amen.**

Hymn “*Jesus calls us here to meet him*” (Gaelic Air) CH4 510

words Graham Maule (b. 1950) & John L. Bell (b. 1949), Lewis Folk melody, arr John L. Bell (b. 1949)
© WGRG/The Iona Community

1 Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

2 Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

3 Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

4 Jesus calls us to his table
rooted firm in time and space,
where the church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

Notices

Offering and Dedication *"God rest ye merry gentlemen"*

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

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.

Holy Communion

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

Hymn *"Will you come and see the light from the stable door"*

(Kelvingrove) /CH4 533 words ©Brian Wren (b. 1952)

Scottish Folk melody, arr John L. Bell (b. 1949) © WGRG/The Iona Community

1 Will you come and see the light from the stable door?

It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.

Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

2 Will you step into the light that can free the slave?

It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.

By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.

Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

3 Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?

Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.

When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,

will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

4 Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?

In the cradle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,

and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:

will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Postlude *"God rest ye merry gentlemen"*

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Worship today was led by Rev. Dr Kerry Enright and Rev. Carol Grant

You are invited to morning tea in the Gathering Area

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A copy of this week's sermon will be on the website, and printed copies available in the church, early next week.

Feel free to text, or email, Kerry with any thoughts about your response to the sermon.