



# KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

*growing in courage to live the Jesus way*

10am – 25 December 2016

Christmas Day

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## Pre service music

<i>"Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich"</i> (Praise God, You Christians, All together) BuxWV 202	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
<i>"Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich"</i> (Praise God, You Christians, All together)	Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)
<i>"Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her"</i> (From Heaven High, I Come to Here)	Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)
<i>"Puer Natus in Bethlehem"</i> (A Boy is Born in Bethlehem) BuxWV 217	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
<i>"Away in a manger"</i>	Keith Chapman (1945-89)

## Welcome

Introit *"O holy night"*

Adolphe Adam (1803-56)

## Call to worship

(from Isaiah 62:6-10)

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

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

On the walls of the city, I have put people who watch out.

**They shout out day and night, without resting.**

*(the children cry out)*

They give God no rest until the city is known as strong and safe.

**God promised that people will eat what they grow and drink what they make.**

*(we take time to enjoy a drink of juice)*

People of God, open your gates. Repair the road to the city.

**Clear the road of stones.**

*(we clear the centre aisle of stones)*

We raise a banner,

**To help people find their way.**

*(we follow the banner down the centre aisle as we sing)*

Let us worship God.

## Hymn *"O come all ye faithful"*

(Adeste Fideles) CH4 306 - Latin C18th

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 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.*

3 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.*

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Christmas is here. Today we light the Christ candle.

WE pray that Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, seen in Christ may shine out into every corner of the world.

**O God of new beginnings**  
**help us to sing with the angels of the joy of your coming in Jesus.**  
**help us to live in your light,**  
**so that you in Christ will change our world**  
**to be a place of flourishing and wonder.**

## Prayer of Praise and Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness

E te whanau ... all are God's beloved people. **Thanks be to God.**

## Passing the Peace

**Anthem** *"Ave Maria"* (Hail Mary full of grace)

text Luke 1:28, music Anton Bruckner (1824-96)

## Conversation with young members

### Hymn *"Come and Join the Celebration"*

(Celebrations) CH4 321 – Valerie Collison

*Come and Join the celebration,*  
*it's a very special day;*  
*come and share our jubilation,*  
*there's a new King born today!*

1 See the shepherds  
hurry down to Bethlehem;  
gaze in wonder  
at the son of God who lay before them.  
[Refrain]

2 'God is with us',  
round the world the message sing;  
he is with us,  
'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are  
pealing.  
[Refrain]

## Gospel Luke 2:1-14

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

*(people, children especially, are invited to each make a banner in the chapel area)*

### Responsive Prayer

Loving God, some of us are like Zechariah,  
**not believing that you would choose to bless us,**  
some of us are like Mary,  
**surprised and humbled by the gift of new life,**  
some of us are like Joseph,  
**needing reassurance and faith for the way ahead,**  
some of us are like Elizabeth,  
**supporting others as they begin the journey,**  
some of us are like the shepherds,  
**unsure whether your presence is real or a dream,**  
some are like the angels,  
**eager to tell others your good news,**  
some are like the inn keeper  
**not yet realising how special you really are,**  
some are like the wise men,  
**kneeling in wonder and worship.**  
Wherever we are in our journey of faith,  
**remind us that your plans lie before us,**  
help us to grow tall in your love and light,  
**so that we may stand strong and gentle for you in our world.**  
**Amen.**

### Exploring the characters:

Zechariah

Mary

Joseph

Elizabeth

Shepherds

Angels

Inn-keepers

Wise men

### Responsive Prayer repeated

## Hymn "Joy to the world"

(Antioch) CH4 320 - Isaac Watts, *alt*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## Prayer for others, then ...

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

## Offering and Dedication "In Dulci"

Old German carol, *arr* R L Pearsal & Reginald Jacques

*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.*

## Hymn "Go tell it on the mountain"

GtG 136 - Edmund Hamilton Sears, *alt*

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

*Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth. [*Refrain*]

3 Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

## Blessing and Threefold Amen, then Postlude

*"Toccata" from Symphony No 5*

Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)