



KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

alive to God's Spirit

10am – Sunday 23 December 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pre service music "*Quem Pastores*" Helmut Walcha (1907-91)

"*The Snowman*" Howard Blake

played by Carolyn Schmid

Welcome

Introit "*God rest ye merry Gentlemen-O Tidings of comfort and joy*"

English traditional carol, arr. David Willcocks

Call to Worship

from Psalm 98:4-6

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. The Lord be with you.

Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. The Lord bless you.

Acclaim the Lord, all the earth;

break into songs of joy, sing psalms.

Sing psalms in the Lord's honour

Acclaim the presence of the Lord our ruler.

Let us worship God!

Hymn "*Mary's Song*"

(Woodlands) CH4 286 - Timothy Dudley-Smith

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm
has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Prayer, Assurance of Forgiveness and Passing the Peace

E te whanau, in Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou;

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

For those who look for love, but are abused, for those who have lost family and friends, for those who live where there is strife or war, we light the candle of love.

You, Lord Jesus, renew our love, and pour love into the world. May this light signal a breakthrough, a brighter future, a new order and a better way.

The Early Word

"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.

Reading Micah 5:1-5

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church **Thanks be to God**

Hymn *"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"*

(Noel) CH4 303 - Edmund Hamilton Sears

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to you
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2 And you, beneath life's crushing load
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

3 For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever-rolling years,
still dawns the Age of Gold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Gospel Luke 1:39-55

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

Sermon Leaping for joy, heartened with hope

“Unto us a boy is born”

(Puer Nobis) CH4 331 - Percy Dearmer

1 Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.

3 Now may Mary’s son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys beyond us,
unto the joys beyond us.

2 Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he all folk surpasses,
that he all folk surpasses.

4 Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
now rends the air asunder,
now rends the air asunder.

Prayer for others and Lord’s Prayer

Anglican prayer book

**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.**

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āiane
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
Murua ō mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te korōria, Āke āke āke. Āmine.**

Notices, then Offering and Dedication

“Zither Carol”

Czech carol, arr. Malcolm Sargent

*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.*

“The First Nowell”

CH4 323 - English traditional carol

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay:
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
[Refrain]

3 This star shone bright in the north-west,
o’er Bethlehem it seemed to rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.
[Refrain]

4 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of
naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
[Refrain]

Sending

We travel towards the new birth, towards the new start. We follow the signs which show us the way. **To do what is right, to seek justice, to walk humbly with God. We go in peace.**

Blessing

Postlude *“God rest ye merry gentlemen”*

John Rutter