



# KNOX CHURCH, DUNEDIN

10am – Saturday 25 December 2021

Christmas Day / Ra Kirihimete

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## Livestreaming today

This morning's service is being livestreamed to YouTube. As the camera is at the back of the church, it will only show the backs of heads unless you turn to face the back. If you do not wish to be filmed, you may like to sit nearer the back of the church.

Music to prepare us for worship *Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugliech (Praise God, Ye Christians, Altogether) BWV 609* from 'Orgelbuchlein' - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), *Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich (The Day, that is So Rich with Joy) BuxWV 182* - Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

## Welcome Noticing the characters of Christmas

**Introit** *"Tomorrow shall be my dancing Day"* English traditional carol arr David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Calla Knudson-Hollebon and Jesse Hanan/ soloists

## Call to worship

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

**Ma Ihowā koe e manaaki. The Lord bless you.**

Light looked down and saw darkness.

**"I will go there," said light.**

Peace looked down and saw war.

**"I will go there," said peace.**

Joy looked down and saw ingratitude.

**"I will go there," said joy.**

Love looked down and saw bitterness.

**"I will go there," said love.**

The Christ, giver of life, was born this day.

## The lighting of the Advent and Christmas candles

**Hymn** *(we will stand and sing while masked)*

(Puer Nobis) CH4 331 - Percy Dearmer

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

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

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

4 Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while we sing our songs with glee  
and rend the air asunder,  
and rend the air asunder.

**Prayer** Kia inoi tatou – let us pray ...

## Assurance of forgiveness

E te whānau a te Karaiti, family of Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

## Passing the peace

Kia tau te rangimārie o te Karaiti ki runga i a koutou. May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please stand and make a gesture of peace towards people around you.*

## Hymn *(we will stand and sing while masked)*

(Humility (Oxford)) CH4 313 - Edward Caswall

1 See! in yonder manger low,  
born for us on earth below,  
see! the tender Lamb appears  
promised from eternal years.

2 Lo! within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim. [*Refrain*]

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

3 Sacred Infant, all Divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this! [*Refrain*]

## First reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

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

## Gospel reading: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for

her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**Anthem** "*Nativity carol*" words and music John Rutter (b. 1945)

## The characters of Christmas

### Hymn (*Please stand*)

(Olwen) CH3 185 - Katharine Emily Roberts

1 All poor folk and humble,  
all lame ones who stumble,  
draw closer and feel not afraid;  
for Jesus, our treasure,  
with love past all measure,  
in lowly poor manger was laid.

3 Then haste we to show him  
the praises we owe him;  
our service he ne'er can despise:  
whose love still is able  
to show us that stable  
where softly in manger he lies.

2 Though wise men who found him  
laid rich gifts around him,  
yet oxen they gave him their hay:  
and Jesus in beauty  
accepted their duty;  
contented in manger he lay.

## The characters of Christmas

### An Affirmation of Faith

Leader - When the time was right, God sent the Christ  
Women - Reared him and risked him  
Men - Filled him with laughter and tears and compassion  
Leader - Filled him with anger and love and passion.  
Women - Unwelcomed child, refugee and runaway  
**All - Christ is God's own child.**

Men - Feeder and teacher, healer and antagonist  
**All - Christ is God's own child.**  
Women - Lover of the unlovable  
Men - Forgiver of the unforgivable  
**All - Christ is God's own child.**  
Leader - Befriended by the weak, disliked by the proud,  
Bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh,  
Writing God's pardon over earth's brokenness.  
**All - Christ is God's own child.**

## Prayer for others followed by the Lord's Prayer

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 forever. 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 āianei  
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.

## Hymn *(we will stand and sing while masked)*

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with the angelic hosts proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King'.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.

(Mendelssohn (Bethlehem)) CH4 301 alt - Charles Wesley

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as God with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! [*Refrain*]

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 may die,  
born to raise us of the earth,  
born to give us second birth: [*Refrain*]

# Blessing

Music for our leaving "*Tu es Petra*" Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

## Serving today

Minister - Kerry Enright

(minister@knoxchurch.net 0274675542)

Organist and Choir Director - Karen Knudson

Reader - David Richardson

Prayers for Others - Mavis Duncanson

*In relation to your monetary offering, you may:*

- *Make regular automatic payments (which are tax deductible) - contact Helen Thew at [plannedgiving@knoxchurch.net](mailto:plannedgiving@knoxchurch.net)*
- *Give online to the Church's bank account at 03 0903 0016425 00 - our charity number for tax rebate purposes is #CC52318*