



The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato
stpeter.org.nz



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1, 14

25 December 2024 – Christmas Day

8:00am	Said Eucharist	President Preacher	The Rev'd Wendy Tyrrell The Right Rev'd Philip Richardson
10:00am	Choral Eucharist	President Preacher	The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins The Right Rev'd Philip Richardson

Cathedral Centre Toilet: The toilet at the near end of the cathedral centre can be accessed during the service, while keeping the rest of the centre secure.

Service Sheets: Our service sheets can be accessed at stpeter.org.nz and viewed on your phone to save paper and costs. The “CathedralFree” Wi-Fi can be accessed without a password.

Health & Safety:

In the event of a fire: exits are the entrance and the doors either side of the front of the main body of the church.

In the event of an earthquake: drop to the floor, seek cover, and hold onto something. Only exit when all shaking has stopped.

Services Online: Many of our choral services are on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@WaikatoCathedral (older services are on Facebook). The services are usually available live and are generally under the live tab of our YouTube channel. If you need assistance ask a young person or, failing that, ask Dean Julian.

Weekly Services: The Wednesday services resume on 15 January 2025. The Friday Te Reo Māori services resume on 2 February 2025.

Office hours: The Church office will be closed from 3pm Tuesday 24 December until Monday 6 January 2025.

Thank you: A huge thank you to everyone who has made the Advent and Christmas seasons at the cathedral so special, from working parties and the flower guild through to the choirs and musicians, including bell ringers, and volunteer clergy and to the stalwarts who magically make things happen and who continue to find new ideas and possibilities to make this so amazing. Thank you all. And, thank you for everyone’s generosity towards the Foodbank. Donations welcome throughout the year!

Thanksgiving and Praise

A New Zealand Prayer Book, page 476

Music Copyright CCLI 337942

Mass Setting Missa Carolae - Whitbourne

The Ministry of Word and Prayer

The Blessing of the Crib (*which is at the back of the cathedral*)

E te whānau a te Karaiti, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this day your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

All: Amen.

Processional Hymn (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

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.*

God of God, Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:

O come

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

O come

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:
 O come ...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
 O come

Tr. F Oakeley, W Brooke et al.

Welcome & Greeting - (*please remain standing / e tū tonu tātou*)

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All: and also with you.

Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.

Praise and glory to Christ, God's new beginning for humanity
making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

Love and loyalty to Christ, who gives us the gospel.

Praise to Christ who calls us to holiness.

The Introit *In dulci jubilo* – Cecilia McDowell (b. 1951)

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

We light our final candle on the advent wreath as we celebrate the true
light, which enlightens everyone, coming into the world.

(c.f. John 1.9)

God our Father, today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

All: Amen.

**All: Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

Song of Praise – The Gloria (*sung by the choir, please stand / e tū tātou*)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Forgiveness (*please be seated or kneel / e noho, e tūturi rānei tātou*)

Liturgist:

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

Silence

The presiding priest says

God forgives you. Forgive others; Forgive yourself. Be at peace.
Rejoice and be glad,
for Christ is resurrection, reconciliation for all the human race.

**All We shall all be one in Christ,
one in our life together.
Praise to God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world.**

The Collect

**Son of God, Child of Mary, born in the stable at Bethlehem, be
born again in us this day that through us the world may know
the wonder of your love. Hear this prayer for your name's sake.
Amen.**

The Readings

(please sit for the readings / e noho ki te whakarongo ki ngā pānuitanga)

A reading from the book of the prophet 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.’

[Translation – New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised)]

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

Psalm 97 (please stand / e tū tātou)



- 1 You are king O Lord, let the ' earth be ' glad:
let the many ' islets · and ' coastlands · re'joice.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are ' round a'bout you:
righteousness and justice are
the found'ation ' of your ' throne.
- 3 Fire ' goes be'fore you:
and burns up your ' enemies · on ' every ' side.
- 4 The world is lit up ' by your ' lightnings:
and earth ' trembles ' at the ' sight.
- 5 The mountains melt like ' wax be'fore you:
before the ' Lord of ' all the ' earth.
- 6 The heavens pro'claim your ' righteousness:
and all the ' peoples ' see your ' glory.
- 7 Shame on all who worship images,
and glory in their ' worthless ' idols:
bow down before the ' Lord ' all you ' gods.
- 8 Jerusalem hears ' and is ' glad:
the cities of Judah rejoice O ' Lord ' at your ' judgments.
- 9 For you Lord are most high over ' all the ' earth:
you are exalted ' far a'bove ' all the ' gods.
- 10 You love those who ' hate ' evil:
you preserve the lives of your servants,
and deliver them ' from the ' hand · of the ' wicked.

- 11 Light has dawned ' for the ' righteous:
and ' joy · for the ' upright · in ' heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the ' Lord you ' righteous:
and give ' thanks · to God's ' holy ' name.

Glory to the **Fa**ther and ' to the ' **So**n:
and ' to the ' **Ho**ly ' **Sp**irit;
as it was in the be'ginning . is ' now:
and shall be for ' ever. ' **A-** men.

A reading from the letter to Titus (3:4-7)

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. [NRSVA]

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

Gradual Hymn (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

The Gospel (*we remain standing and turn to face the gospel | Ka tū tonu tātou ki te whakarongo ki te Rongopai*)

The holy Gospel according to Luke (2:8-20)

Praise and glory to God.

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. [NRSVA]

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ, the Word.**

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith (*please stand / e tū tatou*)

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.

God of grace you hear our prayer.		God of love grant our prayer.		Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.
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The intercessor may end with the following responses or a collect:

Thanksgiving, blessing, and praise be yours, God of the incarnation,
because you care for us and for our prayer. May our love for you and our
likeness to you be strengthened every time we pray. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Sacrament

The Peace (*please stand / e tū tatou*)

All: Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.
All: Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

Liturgist: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn *During the singing of this hymn a collection will be taken.*

— 1 —

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

— 2 —

He came down to earth from
heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

— 3 —

And through all his wondrous
childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

— 4 —

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

— 5 —

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

— 6 —

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

C F Alexander

Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving *(please stand, sit or kneel as you are most comfortable throughout the following prayer / mō tēnei inoi katoa, e noho, e tū, tūturi rānei i runga anō i tāu e pai nei)*

The Lord is here.

[ANPB, Alternative D, p. A11]

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe,
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light.

Your light shines on in our darkness.

For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear your Word,
to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love.

You sent your Son to be for us

the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

For Christ is born in Bethlehem, God revealed in human form;
the baby in a manger, the refugee on the Egypt road.

You send your Holy Spirit

to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive your Church.

Therefore, with all your witnesses who surround us on every side,
countless as heaven's stars, we praise you for our creation
and our calling, with loving and with joyful hearts we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son;

On that night before he died he took bread and gave you thanks.

He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks.

He gave it to them and said:

Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us.

God of the past and present, we your people remember your Son.

We thank you for his cross and rising again,

we take courage from his ascension;

we look for his coming in glory and in him we give ourselves to you.

We celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come in glory.

Send your Holy Spirit,

that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ,

and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite.

Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;

you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first,

to whom we bring our songs of ever lasting praise.

Blessing, honour and glory be yours,

Here and everywhere,

Now and forever. Amen.

The Communion

The Lord's Prayer (You may wish to pray the Lord's Prayer in your own language. The Choir will sing.)

Kua ākona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki,
ka ĭnoi tātou

As Christ teaches us we
pray

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.

Aua hoki mātou e kaweā kia
whakawaia;

Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga,
te kaha, me te korōria,
Āke ake ake. Āmine.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.
Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.
Christ is risen from the dead.

Agnus Dei (sung by the choir)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us your peace.

The Invitation

Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

The minister says the following to each person.

The bread of life, broken for you.

Te taro o te ora, i whatiā nei mōu.

The cup of blessing, poured out for you.
Te kapu o te ora, i whakahekeka nei mōu.

The communicant may respond each time Amen / Āmine.

All are welcome to receive communion. If communion is not your tradition, we invite you to come forward for a blessing, simply put an arm across your chest and a blessing will be given.

Please come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive the bread and wine or a blessing. Please ask if you need a gluten free wafer.

In the Anglican tradition, we use the common cup, with wine of a high alcohol content, in a silver vessel, to minimise infection risks. If you do not wish to receive the wine, communion is fully valid in one kind, either bread or wine, or you may wish to simply lift the cup, to show reverence and receive spiritually.

Please note, the practice of intinction is not permitted.

If you would like to light a candle for someone you love, or to give thanks to God, please feel free to do so at the back of the cathedral.

Anthem Verbum Caro factus est - Tamsin Jones

Prayer After Communion

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

Blessing (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All: Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

All: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All: Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of
Life, be upon you and remain with you, with those whom you love,
and with those whom you struggle to love, this night and always.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn

— 1 —

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

— 2 —

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time, behold him come
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

Hail the heav'n-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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Dismissal of the Community

Liturgist: Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

All: **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

*The service concludes with the organ voluntary,
for which you are warmly invited to remain.*

*If you wish to leave following the recession of clergy and choir,
please do so quietly so that the voluntary may be fully appreciated.*

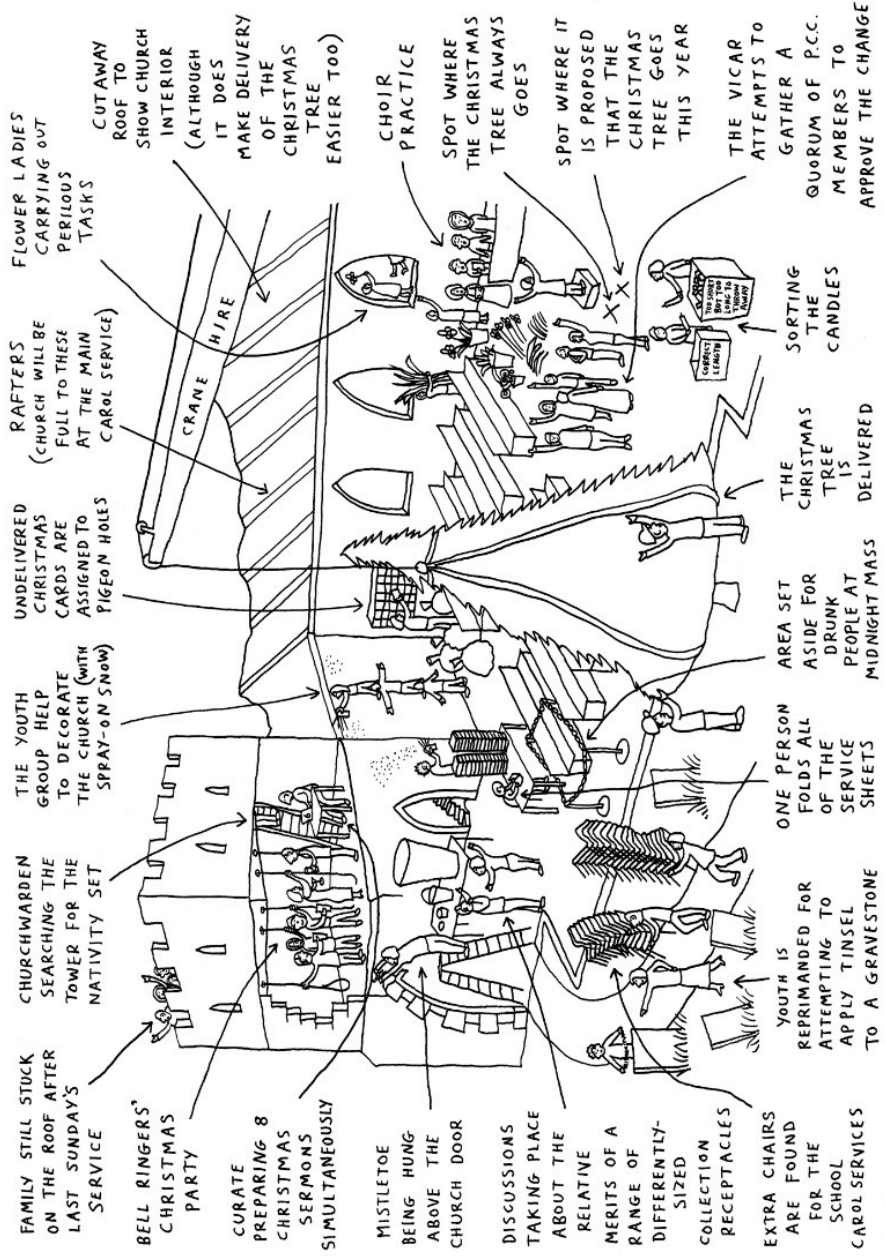
Voluntary:

Concerto - Prelude on “Joy to the World” / Tune: Antioch

Paul Fey (b.1998)



CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS



Cantata Vespers - Third Saturday of the month
Next Vespers: 15 February 2025 at 5.00pm

Choral Evensong - Fourth Sunday of the month
Next Evensong: 22 February 2025 at 6.00pm

Cathedral Ministry Team and Contacts

Dean: The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins (Day off- Friday)
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Volunteer Ministry Team Members

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Canon Bryan Smith
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Dean's warden: Dianne Cameron
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Giving

Bank Details: 02-0316-0268898-000

The ministry of the cathedral is paid for by our church members if you can be a part of this it greatly helps the life of the church.

Cathedral Office

Monday-Friday: 9am-3pm | (07) 839 4683 | admin@stpeter.org.nz

Cathedral Shop

Monday-Friday: 10am-2pm; Sunday: 11am-12pm | (07) 839 4683