



Christmas Eve

Christingle Service



The Waikato Cathedral
Church of St Peter

Te whare karakia matua
o Pita Tapu ki Waikato

Introit — “The Angel Gabriel” *Sung by the Junior Choir*

Welcome

Christ has brought us out of darkness:

All: to live in his marvellous light.

E te whānau a te Karaiti, welcome to Saint Peter’s Cathedral.

We have come together in the presence of God
to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world,
to hear and receive the message of the coming of Christ,
and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

Grace and peace to you from God.

All: God fill you with truth and joy.

Carol

Solo:

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.

All:

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.

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.



Gathering of the Community

As we have waited for the coming of Christmas, we are here to watch, wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness shall be no more.

Blessed are you, God our Father, through your Son the Christ.
His name is Jesus.

All: God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus came and shared our life.

All: God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus' touch made people whole

All: God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus raised the dead to life.

All: God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus died to set us free.

All: God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus rose to life again.

All: God is with us. Praise the Lord.

Jesus is our King on high.

All: God is with us. Praise the Lord.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Lighting the Advent Wreath

The first Advent Candle is lit

We light our first candle on the advent wreath as we remember our ancestors and the light that guided and guarded them.

**All: God, as we wait for your promise, Give Light, Give hope.
The people who walked in Darkness have seen a great light.**

The second Advent Candle is lit

We light our second candle on the advent wreath as we remember the prophets and the light they proclaimed to all the world.

**All: God, as we wait for your promise, Give Light, Give hope.
Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

The third Advent Candle is lit

We light our third candle on the advent wreath as we remember John the Baptist who prepared the way for the Light of the World.

**All: God, as we wait for your promise, Give Light, Give hope.
John was not the light;
he prepared the way for the light.**

The fourth Advent Candle is lit

We light our fourth candle on the advent wreath as we remember The Virgin Mary who trusted and bore the Light of the World.

**All: God, as we wait for your promise, Give Light, Give hope.
Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior.**

Carol

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 You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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

Bible Reading – The Gospel according to Luke 2:6-20

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary 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.

Breakfast Youth Church Sketch

Carol

— 1 —

Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

— 2 —

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born.

— 3 —

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Story – The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark

(Jill Tomlinson, adapted)

Junior Choir — “An upside-down Christmas”

The Prayers

Lord Jesus, you were born in poverty in a stable. Bless all those this Christmas who are homeless or cold.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, Mary and Joseph had to escape from the fury and violence of King Herod. Bless all refugees this Christmas and keep them safe.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, this night the angels sang songs to your glory. May our singing join theirs, and our lives reflect your love for all people.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we pray for our families and friends. Please bless all those this Christmas who are lonely or by themselves.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

The Christingle Story and Crib blessing

the Christingles will be lit during this time

The Orange represents the World. The world held lovingly in God’s hands, from the beginning of time, and every day and night until God’s work is done.

The Red Band around the orange represents the love of Jesus Christ who died on the cross. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we see God loving the world and changing people’s lives for good.

The Fruits—Through bread and wine made from the fruits of the earth, Jesus showed us how he would save us. Through food and drink, God has always shown people how he loves them.

The Candle represents Christ, who is the light of the world. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. The light that cannot be put out.

Carol

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

Crib Blessing

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us ask God to bless this crib, so all who worship his Son, born of Mary, may share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night 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. **Amen.**

May the grace of Christ our Saviour be with us all. **Amen.**

Carol

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 from true God, and
Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only-begotten Son of God the Father.

O come let us adore him ...

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest
O come let us adore him ...

Blessing and Sending Out

God shines in your hearts.

All Praise to Christ our light.

Christ is the light of the world.

All Praise to Christ our light.

Go in the power of the Spirit, to bring light to others.

All Praise to Christ our light.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; 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.

Amen



**We wish you all a joyful
and precious Christmas**

