

# *Advent Carol Service*

Sunday 30 November  
6pm



**The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter**

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Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato

**[stpeter.org.nz](http://stpeter.org.nz)**

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near.

Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

The grace and peace of Almighty God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit, be with you. **And also with you.**

### *Advent Prose: Rorate coeli - Philip Les Bas (b. 1958)*

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

*The service will begin with a figure-of-eight procession around the Cathedral. Processions have been used for centuries in the Church to symbolize the journey of God's people throughout the ages and the pilgrimage that each Christian makes throughout life.*

### *Carol:*

— 1 —

#### **Choir only -**

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin birth:  
let ev'ry age adoring fall;  
such birth befits the God of all.

— 2 —

Begotten of no human will,  
but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God in flesh arrayed,  
the promised fruit to man displayed.

— 3 —

The virgin womb that burden gained  
with virgin honour all unstained;  
the banners there of virtue glow;  
God in his temple dwells below.

— 4 —

Forth from his chamber goeth he,  
that royal home of purity,  
a giant in twofold substance one,  
rejoicing now his course to run.

— 5 —

From God the Father he proceeds,  
to God the Father back he speeds;  
his course he runs to death and hell,  
returning on God's throne to dwell.

— 6 —

O equal to the Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;  
the weakness of our mortal state  
with deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
and darkness breathe a newer light,  
where endless faith shall shine  
and twilight never intervene.

All laud to God the Father be,  
all praise, eternal Son, to thee:  
all glory, as is ever meet,  
serene, to God the Holy Paraclete.

*St Ambrose (340-397) tr. JM Neale and others*

### *Bidding prayer*

E te whānau a te Karaiti, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming we recall in the Child of Bethlehem and experience in the gifts of the Spirit, the bread of the Eucharist, and the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of the light into the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

*The whole congregation prays silently.*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Awaiting Christ's coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as Christ, our Saviour, has taught us:

**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.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

### *An Act of Penitence*

When the Lord comes,

he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,

and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins. *cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations

into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

*Silence*

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us

a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins,

open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will

and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Reading: Isaiah 11:1-5 – Read by Vivianne Flintoff*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

*Choir Carol: A tender shoot – Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)*

*Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – Read by Anne McAloon*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

## Carol:

— 1 —

Thou, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and, where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

— 3 —

Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move on the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.

— 2 —

Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing,  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to humankind  
let there be light.

— 4 —

Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth far and wide  
let there be light.

*John Marriott (1780-1825) alt.*

## Reading: *Isaiah 11:6-10* — Read by David Wilson

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Choir Carol: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*  
— John Gardiner (1917-2011)

*Reading: Luke 4:14-21— Read by Yvonne Hall*

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

*Carol:*

— 1 —

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour  
comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let ev’ry heart prepare a throne,  
and ev’ry voice a song.

— 3 —

He comes, the broken heart to  
bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.

— 2 —

He comes, the pris’ners to release  
in Satan’s bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him  
burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

— 4 —

Our glad hosannas, Prince of  
Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heav’n’s eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.

*Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)*

*Choir Carol: Jesus Christ the apple tree - Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)*

*Reading: Matthew 3:1-11— Read by Brian Dingwall*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

*Carol:*

— 1 —

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake, and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

— 2 —

Then cleansed be ev'ry breast from  
sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.



For thou art our salvation, Lord, To heal the sick stretch out thine  
 our refuge and our great reward; hand,  
 without thy grace we waste away, and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
 like flow'rs that wither and decay. shine forth and let thy light restore  
 earth's own true loveliness once more.

## — 5 —

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
 whose advent doth thy people free,  
 whom with the Father we adore  
 and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*C. Coffin (1676-1749) tr. J. Chandler (1806-1876) alt.*

*Reading: Luke 1:39-56 – Read by Frany Edwards*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
 His mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
 He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
 and lifted up the lowly;  
 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

*Anthem – Magnificat – T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)*

*Prayers – led by Dean Julian Perkins*  
*(please kneel or sit / e noho, e tūturi rānei tātou)*

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Reading: John 3:1-8 – Read by Dean Julian Perkins*  
*(please stand / e tū tātou)*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

*Carol:*

— | —

Lo! he comes with clouds  
  descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ appears on earth to reign.

— 3 —

Those dear tokens of his passion.  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture, with what  
rapture, with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

— 2 —

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold  
him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

— 4 —

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory:  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O  
come quickly!  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

C Wesley, J Cennick

### *Prayer of Blessing*

Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you,  
within you to keep you, before you to lead you,  
beside you to guard you, and above you to bless you,  
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 day and always. **Amen**

## *Dismissal*

We wait for your loving-kindness, O God,  
**in the midst of your temple.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Organ Voluntary -      Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
*- Flor Peters (1903-1986)*