



The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato

stpeter.org.nz



A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel : God with us.

Matthew 1.23

21 December 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am	Said Eucharist	President & Preacher	The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins
10:00am	Choral Eucharist	President & Preacher	The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins
6:00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols		

28 December 2025 – First Sunday of Christmas

8:00am	Said Eucharist	President & Preacher	The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins
10:00am	Choral Eucharist	President & Preacher	The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins

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

Cathedral Centre Toilet: The toilet at the near end of the cathedral centre can be accessed during services.

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: visit youtube.com/@WaikatoCathedral, for recordings of services, mostly under the live tab of the channel.

Giving - Bank Details: 02-0316-0268898-000

The Cathedral Church of St Peter

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.

Donations can also be made via the Eftpos machine at the rear of the Cathedral.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

At St Peter's Cathedral

24 Dec	4pm	Christingle Children's Service
	9pm	Carol Service
	11pm	Midnight Mass (with incense)
25 Dec	8am	Christmas Day Said Eucharist
	10am	Christmas Day Choral Eucharist
28 Dec	8am	Said Eucharist
	10am	Choral Eucharist

Views from the Pews - Archibald Baxter

As we follow Christ's example of hospitality, Church is more than Sunday Eucharist. It can in fact become a blizzard of coffee mornings, breakfasts, lunches after church, Bible discussion groups and quiz evenings. Rubbing shoulders with fellow parishioners is a key part of faith for many, as we turn to others for knowledge, experience, and support.

But not all faith journeys are thus, particularly in the case of Archibald Baxter who, at a crucial part of his life was definitely not part of any identifiable denomination or sect, but who was a man of Christian conscience and belief. Baxter flew solo, which cost him when he resisted the draft in WWI. He is reported to have claimed a 'Christian Conscience' but resisted classification, at a time when Quakers for instance had some grudging respect from the authorities. Baxter's aloneness led to what we would now deplore; his imprisonment and transport to France, culminating in what soldiers understandably called 'crucifixion', officially Field Punishment No 1, tied to a crossbeam and left exposed to enemy fire for hours on end.

It is clear that the authorities feared Baxter and his ilk, feared his influence, and devoted time and resources to break him. Largely because he refused to discuss his faith with more than a few intimates, certainly not with the authorities, he was outside the pale, refusing categorisation.

Whether we agree with him or not, and some say he brought this on himself, we can accept that following Christ may be an isolated and isolating act, carried on well outside the institutional boundaries of both church and state.

We may disagree with him, but the history of Christian Pacifism in New Zealand has a lot to teach us about what faith is, and where it can lead. The Last Supper is closely followed by Calvary, and this is something we risk forgetting as we sing of a Child born in a manger; we risk forgetting what happened later.

Archibald Baxter returned home alive, remained an active socialist and pacifist, but did not fly solo for ever, being received into the Roman Catholic Church later in life under the influence of his son, the poet we know as James K Baxter.

Those who follow Christ may travel many different roads; surely they are part of the Body even if they travel alone.

Richard Swarbrick

Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption

A New Zealand Prayer Book, page 456

Music Copyright CCLI 337942

Mass Setting: Echo Mass - Janet Jennings (b. 1957)

Te Minitatanga o te Kupu me ngā Īnoi

The Ministry of Word and Prayer

Te Whakatikatika | The Gathering of the Community

The Introit – Blessed be that maid Mary

– Trad. Arr. D. Willcocks (1919-2015)

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

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.

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.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

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!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024), based on Luke 1:46-55

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

In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life. **Amen**

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator, the love at our beginning and without end, in our midst and with us.

God is with us, here we find new life.

Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

**Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,
release for the captives,
recovery of sight for the blind
and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *(Please be seated / e noho)*

We light our fourth candle on the advent wreath as we remember the light that the Virgin Mary brought into the world.

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son.

Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy.

Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.**

Gathering of the Children *(all children are welcome to join junior church in the hall, children under five must be accompanied by a carer.)*

Psalm: 80: 1-7, 17-19 (*please stand / e tū tātou*)



- 1 Hear O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph ' like a ' flock:
shine forth from your ' throne up'on the ' cherubim.
- 2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin ' and Man'asseh:
stir up your ' strength and ' come · to our ' rescue.
- 3† Restore us a'gain O ' God:
show us the light of your ' face and ' we · shall be ' saved.
- 4 O Lord ' God of ' hosts:
how long will you set your face,
a'gainst your ' people's ' prayer?
- 5 You have fed them with the ' bread of ' tears:
and given them ' tears in ' plenty · to ' drink.
- 6 You make a mockery of us ' to our ' neighbours:
and our ' ene mies ' laugh us · to ' scorn.
- 7 Restore us again O ' God of ' hosts:
show us the light of your ' face and ' we · shall be ' saved.
- 17 Let your hand rest upon the one at your ' right ' hand:
the one you have ' made so ' strong · for your ' service.
- 18 Then we will ' never · for'sake you:
O give us life, and we will ' call up'on your ' name.
- 19 Restore us again Lord ' God of ' hosts:
show us the light of your ' face and ' we · shall be ' saved.

**Glory to the Father and ' to the ' Son:
and ' to the ' Holy ' Spirit;
as it was in the be'ginning . is ' now:
and shall be for ' ever. ' A- ' men.**

Invitation to Confession

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

Liturgist:

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith. *cf John 1.23*

The Kyries (sung by the choir)

Kyrie eleison.	E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.	Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison.	E te Karaiti, kia aroha mai.	Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison.	E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.	Lord, have mercy.

Heavenly Father, you call us to repent of our sins:
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you search our hearts and show us the truth:
direct us in your way of righteousness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence before the president says:

God forgives you. Forgive others; Forgive yourself. Be at peace.

Te Īnoi o te Rā | The Collect

Father of love,
through your most Holy Spirit,
Mary the Jewish girl conceived your Son;
may his beauty, his humanity, his all-transforming grace be born in us,
and may we never despise the strange and stirring gentleness
of your almighty power.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

Ngā Karaipiture | The Readings

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

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (7:10-16)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

[Translation – New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised)]

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (1:1-7)

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[NRSVA]

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

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

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

When he comes,

when he comes,

who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
God will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

(Refrain)

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

(Refrain)

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

Jesus comes!

Jesus comes!

We will make him welcome!

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Te Rongopai | 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 Matthew (1:18-25)

Praise and glory to God.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. *[NRSVA]*

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

Te Kauwhau | The Sermon

Baptism – God's Call

Priest E te whānau a te Karaiti, God is love, God gives us life.
We love because God first loves us.
In baptism God declares that love;
in Christ God calls us to respond.

The Presentation for Baptism

Harriet is presented for baptism by parent(s) or godparent(s), who says

I/We present Harriet to be baptised and made a member of the
Body of Christ, the Church.

Priest From the beginning the Church has received believers by baptism. (Believers' children have also been baptised so that with help and encouragement they should grow up in Christ and by the grace of God serve Christ all the days of their life.)

On the day when the apostles first preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection, Peter urged his hearers

'Repent and be baptised, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus the Christ for the forgiveness of your sins,
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
For the promise is to you and to your children,
and to all who are far away, everyone whom
the Lord our God may call.'

Parents and godparents, how do you respond to this promise?

The parents and godparents reply

We hear God's call
and ask for baptism.

The priest says to the candidates, parents, and godparents

Priest Do you renounce all evil influences
and powers that rebel against God?

The parents and godparents reply

I renounce all evil.

Priest Do you trust in Christ's victory which brings forgiveness,
freedom and life?

Parents and godparents reply

In faith I turn to Christ,
my way, my truth, my life,
as I care for Harriet.

People May God keep you in the way you have chosen.

The Baptism

The priest stands by the water for baptism, and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

People whose promise endures for ever.

We thank you God for your love in all creation,
especially for your gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant with your people Israel;
through the Red Sea waters
you led them to freedom in the promised land.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptised by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through the deep waters of death Jesus fulfilled his baptism.
He died to set us free and was raised to be exalted Lord of all.
It is Christ who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

People Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

We thank you that through the waters of baptism you cleanse us,
renew us by your Spirit and raise us to new life.

In the new covenant we are made members of your Church
and share in your eternal kingdom.

Through your Holy Spirit,
fulfil once more your promises in this water of rebirth,
set apart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!**

The priest baptises each candidate pouring water on the candidate, saying

Priest Harriet Madeline, I baptise you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God receives you by baptism into the Church.
Child of God, blessed in the Spirit,
welcome to the family of Christ.

The priest makes the sign of the cross on Harriet, saying

Priest We sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

A lighted candle is given by a representative of the congregation, who says

Walk in the faith of Christ crucified and risen.
Shine with the light of Christ.

The Affirmation

The congregation and the newly baptised stand to respond:

Priest Praise to God who has given us life.

All Blessed be God for the gift of love.

Priest Praise to God who forgives our sin.

All Blessed be God who sets us free.

Priest Praise to God who kindles our faith.

All Blessed be God, our strength, our hope.

Priest Let us, the baptised, affirm that we renounce evil
and commit our lives to Christ.

All Blessed be God, JESUS IS LORD!

The priest then says to the parents and godparents

Priest What is your faith?

p & g I believe and trust in God the Father,
maker and sustainer of all things;
and in God the Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ;
and in God the Holy Spirit, giver of life and truth.
This is my faith.

The Priest speaks to the parents and godparents

How then will you care for Harriet?

The parents and godparents reply together

I will love Harriet and share my faith with her.

The priest says to the congregation

Priest As the community of faith, we rejoice at this baptism and will
share with Harriet what we ourselves have received: a delight in
prayer, a love for the word of God, a desire to follow the way of
Christ, and food for the journey.

The priest then says to Harriet

Priest Harriet, you are now a pilgrim with us.
As a member of Christ's body, the Church,
you will be challenged to affirm your faith in God
and receive the laying on of hands in confirmation.
May you grow in the Holy Spirit,
fulfil your ministry and follow Christ your whole life long.

Blessing of the family

Priest God bless you with wisdom and love,
may this child find in you, your homes and families,
Christ's love and understanding. Amen.

All God of love,
we thank you for our calling to be disciples of Christ.
Help us to nurture Harriet in the faith we share.
May she grow to love, worship and serve you,
and bring life to the world. Amen.

All return to their seats.

Choir – The Lord bless you and keep you – *John Rutter, b. 1945*

The Celebration of Faith (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

Liturgist: Let us rejoice and celebrate the faith of our baptism.

Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Liturgist: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Liturgist: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Ngā Īnoi a te Iwi | The Prayers of the People

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

The intercessor may use one of the following responses:

God of grace		God of love		Lord, in your mercy
you hear our prayer.		grant our prayer.		hear our prayer.

The intercessor may end with the following responses or a collect:

Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you.
Hear the prayers of your people.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace
receive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Te Minitatanga o te Hākarameta The Ministry of the Sacrament

Te Maungārongo | The Peace (*please stand / e tū tatou*)

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

E te whānau, we are the body of Christ.

By one Spirit we were baptised into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.

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

Offertory Hymn

— 1 —

Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed,
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

— 3 —

Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and, in prayer with Christ's
apostles,,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heav'nly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

— 2 —

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her
through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calv'ry's tree,
saw the price of our redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

— 4 —

Sing the greatest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heav'nly home:
virgin mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with
grace,
may your Son, the world's
redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

George B. Timms (1910-1997)

Te Whakatikatika i te Ohaoha | Preparation of the Gifts

God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth
and fruit from the vine.

By your Holy Spirit this bread and wine will be for us
the body and blood of Christ.

All you have made is good. Your love endures for ever.

Te Whakawhetai Nui | 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 Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to heaven

where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the first born from the dead,
the pioneer of our salvation, who is with us always,
one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with your whole created universe, we praise you for your
unfailing gift of life. We thank you that you make us human and
stay with us even when we turn from you to sin.

God's love is shown to us:

while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save,
you came among us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and living Lord.
You make all things new. In Christ's suffering and cross
you reveal your glory and reconcile all peoples to yourself,
their true and living God.

We give you thanks because

Christ the Sun of Righteousness has dawned as our deliverance,
and as your power to renew the world in love and justice.

In your mercy you are now our God.

Through Christ you gather us, new-born in your Spirit,
a people after your own heart. We entrust ourselves to you,
for you alone do justice to all people, living and departed.

Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets,
with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise you and say:

For said service:

**Holy, holy, holy:
God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky
and all that lives,
declare your presence
and your glory.**

For choral service the choir 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.

All glory to you, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation.
Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, 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 when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you, and for many, to forgive sin. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer, we meet you in your glory.

We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon your name.

Here and now, with this bread and wine,
we celebrate your great acts of liberation,
ever present and living in Jesus Christ,
crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way,
our access to you, Father, and source of all new life.

In Christ we offer ourselves to do your will.

Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice,
and make us one in the body of Christ
with all who share your gifts of love.

**Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Creator God. Amen.**

Te Hākari Tapu | The Communion

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

As Christ teaches us we pray

**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.**

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

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 kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga,

te kaha, me te korōria,
Āke ake ake. Āmine.

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the bread in silence and then says

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Te Reme a te Atua | 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.

Te Pōwhiri | The Invitation

Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

The minister says the following to each person.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you.

Ko te tinana o tō tātou Ariki, i tukua nei mōu.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for you.

Ko ngā toto o tō tātou Ariki, i whakahekea 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 Nesciens mater – Jean Mouton (1459-1522)

The virgin mother, though knowing no man, bore without pain the saviour of the ages, the very king of the angels. Alone the virgin lactated abundantly from the fullness of heaven. ‘

Ngā Īnoi mō muri i te Hapa | Prayer After Communion

Most loving God, creator and redeemer,
we give you thanks for this foretaste of your glory.

**Through Christ, and with all your saints,
we offer ourselves and our lives to your service.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit,**

**to stand with you in your world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant,
our friend and brother. Amen.**

Gathering of the children

The Blessing (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

God is with you, a light to your path, a companion on the road, a friend for your journey, a sure support and presence at all times; 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**

Closing Hymn

— 1 —

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

— 3 —

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

— 2 —

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

— 4 —

By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Te Haerenga Atu | The Dismissal of the Community

Liturgist

Grace be with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Go in peace. **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

The 10 am service concludes with the organ voluntary, for which you are warmly invited to remain. The voluntary is part of our communal act of worship, and applause is not felt to be appropriate. 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 Prelude on 'Woodlands'

Pietro Cattaneo (b. 1998)

Please join us for refreshments
after both services, 8.00am and 10.00am.

Wednesday services: will start again on 14 January.

Friday Te Reo service: will recommence on Waitangi Day, 6 February.

Office hours: The Church office will be closed from 3pm Tuesday 23 December until Monday 12 January 2026.

We Remember with Love and Gratitude

Prayers for those in need: Bruce, Joan, Alison, Ashleigh, Caroline, Keira, Titan, Zaf & Cathy, Sheila, Sarah, Sal, Michelle, Margaret, Anne, Dilip, Pauline, Jane, Malcolm, Alan, Phillip, Helen, Judith, Jean.

Birthdays: William LC. 21, Chris N. 22, Michelle E. 23, Susan S. 23, Alex C. 23, Harriet H. 23, Duncan B. 25, Jean B. 26, Christie F. 26.

In Memoriam: Gwendoline Garrick 21, Carol Pomeroy 21, Jacqui Shepherd 22, Andy Shearer 23, Gordon Elliott 24, Helen Woods 26, Anthony Baker 26.

	Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 December 2025	First Sunday of Christmas 28 December 2025
First Reading	Isa 7:10-16	Isa 63:7-9
Second Reading	Rom 1:1-7	Heb 2:10-18
Gospel Reading	Matt 1:18-25	Matthew 2:13-23
	8.00 am	8.00 am
Liturgist	Vivianne Flintoff	Andrea Haines
First Reader	Abigail Webber	Evan Harris
Second Reader	Sue Allen	Jill Bindon
Intercessions	Vivianne Flintoff	Andrea Haines
	10.00 am	10.00 am
Liturgist	Vivianne Flintoff	Bryan Bevege
Crucifer	Sophia Khouri	
Acolytes	Felicity Prentice Evelyn Prentice	
First Reader	Richard Swarbrick	Pam McAdam
Second Reader	Anne McAloon	Brian Dingwall
Intercessor	Garry Moore	Fred Rohorua
Ciborium	Dean Julian Perkins & Rev'd Robin Olds	Dean Julian Perkins & Richard Swarbrick
Chalice DB	Kim King & Evelyn Masoka	Plex John & Anu Varghese
Chalice LW	Faith Stewart & Frany Edwards	Pam McAdam Brian Dingwall
Welcomers	Sue Jones & Yvonne Hall	David Wilson & Dianne Cameron
Morning Tea	Min & Warren Turnwald	Sue Jones &

Cantata Vespers - Third Saturday of the month
Next Vespers: 21 February 2026 at 5:00pm

Choral Evensong - Fourth Sunday of the month
Next Evensong: 22 February 2026 at 6:00pm

Cathedral Ministry Team and Contacts

Dean: The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins (Day off- Friday)
deanjulian@stpeter.org.nz | 020 4124 6555

Assistant priest: Father Ben Ong (Mon & Thurs)
ben@stpeter.org.nz | 022 627 3217

Volunteer Ministry Team

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Robin Olds
pastoralcare@stpeter.org.nz | 027 441 9292

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Wendy Tyrrell | bells@stpeter.org.nz

People's warden: Kay Neilson
peopleswarden@stpeter.org.nz | 021 1522 999

Dean's warden: Dianne Cameron
deanswarden@stpeter.org.nz | 021 588 399

Verger: Plex John | verger@stpeter.org.nz | 022 312 9523

Pastoral Care Team

Julian Perkins, Robin Olds, Vivianne Flintoff, Heather Powell, Plex John
If you would like pastoral support, or know someone who would and
have their permission, please let the pastoral care team know:
pastoralcare@stpeter.org.nz
or Robin (027 441 9292) or ring Julian (020 4124 6555)

Giving - Bank Details: 02-0316-0268898-000

The Cathedral Church of St Peter

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