

**Nau mai; haere mai; The warmest of welcomes to
your Interim Cathedral on this Holy night for the
Midnight Mass of the Nativity.**

Join us in singing carols for the half-hour prior to the service.



❖ Our Opening Carol

1. [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.

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. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

Priest I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua, te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu.
Amine. (*In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*)

❖ Lighting the Christmas Candle

Priest Christmas is here. Today we light the Christ candle. Hope, Peace,
Joy and Love, from that stable so long ago, shines out into every
corner of the world.

All O God of new beginnings and new opportunities,
help us to sing with the angels of the joy of your coming;
help us to live in your light, not only today, but throughout the
year, so that your hope, love and peace will truly change our
world to be a place of flourishing and wonder.



Priest 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 Christ, the Lord. [Luke 2.10,11]

Liturgist The people who walked in darkness

All have seen a great light.

Liturgist For to us a child is born

All to us a Son is given.

Liturgist His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, mighty God,

All the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Liturgist Glory to God in the highest

All and peace to his people on earth

❖ Please sit / e noho

Liturgist Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sin

❖ The Confession and Absolution

Liturgist 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.

Liturgist 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.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

Priest May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria is sung, as a cry of thanksgiving to God. **Please Stand / E tū**

from Mass of St Thomas

David Thorne (b. 1951)



All 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.

Liturgist Kia mau te rongō o te Karaiti ki o tatou ngakau.
The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

All **The word of Christ dwell in us richly.**

❖ Please sit for the readings from the Old and New Testaments.

Reader *A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah Chapter [9:2-7](#)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God**

Reader *A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus, Chapter [2:11-14](#)*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God**

❖ We sing the Gradual Carol, in preparation for the Gospel

**1. O little town of Bethlehem, the Southern Cross looks down,
as once a star shone bright and clear, above an Eastern town.**

The hearts of Bethlehem are cold, the streets are hushed with snow.

The doors are locked, there is no room, dear Lord, where will you go?

[Continued overleaf]

2. Oh, come sweet Jesus, come to us, New Zealand's shores are warm, and here are loving hearts enough, to shield you from the storm. Come we will give you all we have, each bird and flower and tree, the breeze that stirs the mountain tops, the music of the sea.

❖ Please stand and face the Gospel and the cross

Reader Today Christ is born:

All Alleluia.

Reader Today the Saviour has come:

All Alleluia.

Reader Today the angels sing on earth:

All Alleluia. **Glory to God in the highest.**

Reader *Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke chapter [2: 1-14](#)*

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!*'

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All [*sung*] **Praise to Christ the Word.**

❖ The sermon follows. The preacher is Archbishop Philip Richardson

❖ After a time of quiet, we stand to say this creed:

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

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.

A Time of Prayer / Nga Inoi a te Iwi

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

[Please sit / e noho]

Our intercessions end with The Lord's Prayer/Te Inoi a te Ariki (which is sung)

All 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.

❖ The Peace follows

Bishop Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Atua ki a koutou; *The peace of God be always with you.*

All And also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one-another a sign of peace.

❖ We shake hands with those around us. Once the Peace has been shared :

❖ During this carol; bread and wine is brought forward, and a collection is taken up for our mission and ministry in Taranaki. Thank you for all that you give.

**1. Silent night, holy night: all is calm, all is bright,
round the 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, heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.'**

**3. Silent night, holy night: wondrous star, lend your light
with the angels let us sing, Alleluias to our King;
Christ our Saviour is born, Christ our Saviour is born.**

**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 the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
[refrain] 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!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son 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 from the earth, born to give us second birth.**

❖ We give thanks for the gifts of bread and wine, and the offerings of time, money and talents which enable our ministry together...

Bishop For these gifts, and all the gifts we bring before this table;
All we give you thanks and praise, Loving God, as we return them
now to you.

❖ The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. Feel free to stand or to sit.

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.**

Bishop All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise

All 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.

Bishop All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given 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; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ; your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await; Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Bishop Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom. United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

All **Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.** [*silence*]

❖ The bread is broken...

Bishop We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life**

❖ The Agnes Dei. We sit or kneel to pray this quiet song

**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.**

Bishop The Gifts of God, for the People of God

All **Jesus Christ is Holy; Jesus Christ is Lord; to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.**

❖ The table is open for us all to share together. Our sidespeople will direct you to the nearest place to receive communion. You may prefer to receive a blessing, or just the bread. Do simply indicate this to the person serving.

❖ After Communion we pray:

Bishop God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

❖ The Blessing

Bishop 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...

❖ The Recessional Carol

1. 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:

*[refrain] O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created:

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above:
'Glory to God In the highest'

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

Deacon Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

All Amen! We go in the name of Christ.



*You are welcome to sit and listen to the organ postlude or to exit quietly.
Since it is a part of our worship, applause is not appropriate.*

On Boxing Day we are open from 10am to 3pm for you to Give Something Back – bring in an unwanted gift (or buy something special, or make a pledge of time) to be given to those in need this Christmas.

**As a thank you, take away a cup to be filled with a delicious Chaos Cafe coffee.
Pay it forward: give something back this Christmas**

The Cathedral Office is closed until Monday 7th January.

During this time, duty ministers will variously be:

Mele Prescott: ph 021 0284 1156

Ailsa Claridge: ph 021 758 247,

Bill Marsh: ph 027 306 4567,

Our Community Café resumes on Tuesday 29th January, 7.30 – 10am.

**MAY THE JOY OF A THOUSAND ANGELS BE YOURS; THE LOVE OF THE CHRIST CHILD AND
GOD'S PEACE BE YOURS, THIS CHRISTMAS TIME AND ALWAYS**