



**Nau mai; haere mai; welcome to Taranaki Cathedral
this Christmas Morning, for our 8am and 10am Services.**

At 10am we sing our Opening Carol

Christ
our Saviour
is Born 

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. 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.*)

Priest We hold our breath in awe for the wonder of the Christ child;

All **For this is Christmas time!**

❖ Lighting the Christ 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. Amen.

Liturgist And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. [*John 1:14*]. In response to this truth, let us sit as we come to our time of confession. [*Silence*]

Liturgist When we make no room for Jesus Christ; and fail to welcome You into our lives,

All **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Liturgist When we sanitise Your birthplace and erase from memory the poor and displaced,

All **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Liturgist When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over His everyday presence,

All **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Liturgist We turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

All **We renounce evil; We claim your love; We choose to be made whole.**

Priest God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the Spirit of Him who redeemed you: Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

❖ We sing a carol.

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing** [*repeat x 3*]

**2. Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns! Your sweetest songs employ
While fields and streams and hills and plains repeat the sounding joy...**

**3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove;
the glories of His righteousness, the wonders of His love...**

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

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

❖ The Collect –Gathering Prayer– is said together / Hei konei te inoi o te rā

All **God of Wonder, source of all joy, shepherds rejoiced at the message of the angels: open our minds and hearts toward you; and renew our hope and joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

❖ Please be seated for the Readings / Nga Karaipiture – E noho

Reader *A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, (Chapter [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.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Reader *A Reading from the letter of Paul to Titus, (Chapter [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. 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. **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.
2. **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 'til morning is nigh.
3. **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.

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 Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Luke (chapter [2:1-20](#))

All **Praise and Glory to God.**

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!’*

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.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to Christ the Word.

❖ A reflection for Christmas Day by Archdeacon Trevor

❖ Then we stand for the Affirmation of Faith:

All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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

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. Please stand:

Priest Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. 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.

❖ 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.

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

‘Fear not’ said he (for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind); ‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind’.

‘To you in David’s town this day is born of David’s line

A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign:

**The Heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus Addressed their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God of high, And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to men Begin and never cease.'**

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

Priest 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 Prayer of Great Thanksgiving follows :

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift your hearts to heaven...

where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Priest Blessed are you, God of all glory, through your Son Jesus Christ.

All We worship and adore you.

Priest He is the heavenly King, born of Mary. He is the Word of the Father, crying as a baby. He is robed in glory, wrapped in infant clothes. He is Lord of heaven and earth, laid in a manger. Strong in weakness, glorious in humility, to him be all praise and glory. We join with all the company of heaven, worshipping you and saying:

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.

Priest We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. "This is my body," he said, "Do this, and know that I am with you." Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said "This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you." And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in Him and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come in glory.

Priest Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.

All **Blessing, honour and glory be yours, Here and everywhere,
Now and forever. Amen**

[silence]

The breaking of the bread

Priest We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

❖ 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, this prayer

All **God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts, and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen**

❖ The Blessing

Priest 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...

❖ We sing the final 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:**

*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:**

[continued overleaf]

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:

❖ The Dismissal of the Community / Te Haerenga Atu

❖ Please turn towards the open doors of the cathedral.

Deacon Haere i runga i te rangimarie i runga i te aroha me te ngakau
hihiko ki te mahi ki te ariki.

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

All Amen. We go in the name of Christ.



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) to be given to those in need this Christmas and throughout the year. As a thank you, take away a cup to be filled with a delicious Chaos Café coffee.

The Cathedral Office is closed until Monday 7th January. During the break, the Hatherly Hall will be open on most days. But there will be no access to toilets or kitchens.

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

Morning prayer Mon-Sat at 8.30am, with usual services 7am Tues and 10am Wed

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