



KAPITI UNITING PARISH

ChristianChurchesNZ – Methodist – Presbyterian
10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu 5032

Waikanae Uniting Church Sunday 15 December 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy
A Warm Welcome to
an Advent Festival of Readings and Carols

Call to Worship:



Come to this Christmas singing!
Come to a birthday, bringing
gifts from our country's treasure,
beauty of shell and stone:
wisdom the old have taught us
laughter the young have brought us,
love to surround a manger,
making this child our own.



Advent candle :

In the high summer as korimako and tui carol the dawn,
as bees swarm harakeke stalks laden with nectar filled
flowers, and toetoe dance in the wind.

I light the candle of joy.

**May there be joy for the oppressed, and joy for those
bound by structures of injustice; and may tears of**

mourning be turned to tears of celebration. Our Advent candle of joy is brightly burning.

We sing: Look toward ChristmasCOC 30(i)

Look toward Christmas!

Advent is here:

Welcome December,

changing the year.

Whistle up, shepherds!

Saddle up, kings!

Chorus up, angels,

flexing your wings.

Sing, sing alleluia!

Sing, sing alleluia!

Sing, sing out the story,

sing about hope and peace.

Set the world singing,

make the world glad;

now is good reason

not to feel sad!

Hear John the Baptist

shout to prepare:

Good News is coming,

earth be aware

Sing, sing...

Mary and Joseph,

soon is the day:

ready the donkey,

start on your way.

**You are the chosen,
willing to trust,
joyful your burden,
carrying Christ.
*Sing, sing ...***

Shirley Murray



*Many of us grew up with images of an English Christmas,
but in New Zealand the star that heralds the Christ child in
our midst is the sun.....(Joy Cowley)*

Reading: Out of our winter into the summer
COC 35a(Shirley Murray)

We sing: Deck the Halls with boughs of holly

Deck the halls with boughs of holly

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

'Tis the season to be jolly

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Don we now our gay apparel

Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la

Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

See the blazing Yule before us

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Strike the harp and join the chorus

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Follow me in merry measure

Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la

While I tell of Yule-tide treasure

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Fast away the old year passes

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Hail the new year, lads and lasses

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Sing we joyous, all together

Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la

Heedless of the wind and weather

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la



Reading: Christmas Carols

We sing: In the bleak mid-winter

**In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.**

**Our God, heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to
reign:**

**In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed,
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

Gustav Holst

Listen: **Glory to God (Messiah)**

We sing: **O little town of Bethlehem**

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

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praise sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

Phillips Brooks

Reading: This year, this year, who comes ...?
COC Advent 1 (Shirley Murray)

We sing: Where is the room.....? COC 48

**Where is the room,
Where is the house of Christmas?
Where shall we welcome Jesus,
Where are the signs of home?
Where are the signs of home?**

**Let Christ have space,
Place at the heart of living,
Centre for birth's new breathing,
Cradle for hope and peace,
Cradle for hope and peace.**

**Let there be room,
Room for the friend and stranger,
Room without hurt or anger,
Room for whoever come,
Room for whoever come.**

**Let love be here,
Love from the Christmas stable,
Love at our open table,
Love to be shared all year,
Love to be shared all year.**

Shirley Murray

Reading: Who is the Child
COC 50 Shirley Murray

We Sing: Away in a manger WOV 242

**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 in 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 on high,
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.**

Listen: Unto us a child is born (Messiah)

Story : Wombat's Christmas

We sing: Angels from the realms of glory.. WOV 235

**Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;**

**You who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

***Come and worship, Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.***

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:**

Refrain

James Montgomery

Reading No I've never seen an Angel
 HIOS 103 (Rob Ferguson)

We sing: Ding dong merrily on high

**Ding-dong! Merrily on high
in heaven the bells are ringing.
Ding-dong! Verily the sky
is riven with angels singing:
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!***

**E'en so, here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen;
and *i-o, i-o, i-o,*
by priest and people sungen!
*Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!***

**Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, you ringers;
may you beautifully rhyme**

your evetime song, you singers:

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

G R Woodward

Reading: Wise men came journeying...
COC 51 (Shirley Murray)

Offering and prayers

We sing: Child of Christmas story COC 8

**Child of Christmas story
stable straw and star,
small and sweet and gentle:
tell us who you are.**

**Child whose baby finger
round our own is curled,
come to melt our hearts, and
come to change the world.**

**Child of Jew and Gentile,
child of white and black -
teach us how to love you,
teach us what we lack.**

**Child of Mary's courage,
birthed in human pain,
tell us what your name is -
be our hope again.**

Shirley Murray

Reading: The stars danced the angels sang
COC 43 (Barbara Gillard)

We sing: Hark the herald angels sing WOV 227

**Hark the herald angels sing
“Glory to the new-born 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”
*Hark the herald angels sing
“Glory to the new-born King.***



Blessing: Christmas is the Good News, the celebration of the birth of Jesus, of every birth, of love, of family, of giving presents, of wisdom, of goodwill, of peace to all and praise of God. Christmas is a promise and a prayer for the whole earth and for everyone of us, in Aotearoa and everywhere. (John Murray)

The Grace: **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.**