

Christmas

at St Aidan's, Remuera

Christmas Day
8am & 9:30am

Presiding Priest:

The Reverend Dr Kim Benton, Priest-in-Charge

Preacher:

The Reverend Wesley Fifita, Priest Associate

Organist: *Graeme Fuller*

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

5 Ascot Avenue, Remuera



NAU MAI, HAERE MAI.

Welcome to the Parish of St Aidan's Remuera,

We are glad that you have come to celebrate Christmas with us this special day.

*We hope that you will find the Christmas spirit
of peace and love in our celebration.*

OPENING VERSICLE

All standing. The presiding priest says from the back of the church

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace!**

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN - *we stand and sing*

**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!**

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God in the highest!

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

THE GATHERING

The presiding priest greets the people informally and says

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Liturgist says

Peace, hope, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all made manifest in this one we light today: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfilment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

The Christ candle is lit.

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago.

**Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this day,
in our hearts, our minds, our lives.**

**May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining
truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

THE CONFESSION – *please sit or kneel the liturgist says*

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sin.

Silence

Almighty and Everlasting God,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

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

Silence

THE ABSOLUTION *is declared by the presiding priest.*

Through the cross of Christ,
God have mercy on you,
pardon you and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA - *we stand and say*

**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.**

THE SENTENCE – *please be seated as the liturgist says*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
full of grace and truth.” *John 1:1,14*

THE COLLECT – *we pray together*

**Ever-new God, you come again to be with us.
You light our darkness.
Your birth in our midst in the person of Jesus
brings us fresh hope,
for through him we recognize
a sure path to your love and peace.
Joining the choirs of heaven and earth,
we praise you in adoration. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 52: 7-10

After the reading

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

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 1: 1-4

After the reading

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

THE GRADUAL HYMN - *we stand and sing*

**Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light;
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star;
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

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THE GOSPEL – John 1: 1-14 – *please remain standing.*

The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter one beginning at the first verse:
Praise and glory to God.

After the Gospel

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Wesley Fifita – Priest Associate

After the sermon a time of silence is observed

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *we stand and say together*

**We believe in God
who has created and is creating,
who became one with us in Jesus Christ,
to reconcile and renew,
who works within us and amongst us by the Holy Spirit.
We trust God.
God calls us to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and to resist evil.
We proclaim God's reign.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – *please sit or kneel*

The presiding priest says

Let us pray to our incarnate God, who has brought us out of darkness and into God's own marvelous light.

*The intercessor leads us in prayer. Please join in the responses in **bold***

Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless
and energy to those who work alongside them.
Make us mindful of the needs of others.

Emmanuel, God with us,
be born in us today.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep
and all who suffer in mind, body and spirit.
Make us agents of your compassion.

Emmanuel, God with us,
be born in us today.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are excluded,
disrespected, mistreated, abused or oppressed.
Help us to treat all people with dignity and respect.

Emmanuel, God with us,
be born in us today.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern
and all who work to combat climate change, injustice, violence and war.
Helps us to see the places where we
have power to act for your justice and love.

Emmanuel, God with us,
be born in us today.

Christ, who was welcomed into a community of love,
may love flourish in homes everywhere and give comfort
to all those separated from loved ones this Christmas.

Emmanuel, God with us,
be born in us today.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Give peace to all those who mourn around the world this Christmas.
Make us bearers of your love.

Emmanuel, God with us,
be born in us today.

**Thanksgiving, blessing and praise be yours,
God of the incarnation;
because you care for us and for our prayer.
May our love for you and our likeness to you
be strengthened every time we pray. Amen.**

THE PEACE – *please stand*

May the newborn Christ guide us in the ways of peace.
Kia tau te rangimārie o te Atua ki a koutou.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace
as you feel comfortable.*

THE OFFERTORY HYMN - *we remain standing to sing.*
You are invited to make an offering during this hymn.

**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.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.***

**Christ by highest heav'n 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 as one with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.***

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun 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.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.***

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PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS - *remain standing*

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding priest and people say responsively

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let's give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is good to give you thanks,
O God, source of abundant life;
Through Jesus Christ your eternal Word
who creates all things by the working of your Spirit.

In him the light which shines for all has come into the world,
for he is the reflection of your glory,
the very imprint of your being.

In him you have become one with us
that we may become one with you.
And so we raise our voices with saints and angels
and all creation in joyful praise to you, saying:

**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.**

Holy and wondrous God,
long ago you spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways.
In these last days you have spoken to us
in your word made flesh, Jesus,
who proclaimed your dream of peace.

He gave himself to our weary world,
accepting death so that we might live
and held our darkness within
until through the cross and grave and empty tomb
he set us free for love.

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 all,
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this, as often as you drink it,
to remember me.

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

Recalling his death and resurrection,
and longing for his coming in glory
we offer you these gifts of bread and wine,
and our lives in thanks and praise.
Pour out your spirit upon these gifts that they have be for us,
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Pour out your Spirit upon us that we might be
a people of grace and truth,
bearing good news of joy in every season.

United in Christ with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER - *remain standing*

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 forever. Amen.**

Silence may be kept

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread is broken.

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

**God here among us,
light in our midst, bring us to light and life.**

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

THE ANGUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

THE INVITATION

The presiding priest says

Come God's people, come and receive Christ's heavenly food.

Please be seated as the altar party receive communion.

All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion will be distributed at the crossing. You will be offered bread and wine or grape juice. You may drink from the cup, or simply hold it to acknowledge that you are receiving the blood of Christ and its promise of grace. Please do not intinct (dip) your wafer. Gluten free wafers are available – please indicate this preference when you come to receive communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this by keeping your hands by your side or crossing your hands over your chest.

You may prefer to remain in your seat and pray. Please do whatever is comfortable for you. If you are unable to come forward please sit in the front pews and communion will be brought to you.

During communion we sing

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an 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
you and all humankind.**

**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 swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.”**

**Thus spoke the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**“All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin and never cease.”**

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**What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary’s lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him praise.
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**What love is this who feels our pain,
our sorrow and our weeping
Who comes among us, for us,
holds us always in his keeping?
Christ comes, Emmanuel
God is with us, the ages tell
Live, live in Jesus’ love
the Babe, the Son of Mary**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh
Come, peasant, king, to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him
Raise, raise the song on high
While Mary sings a lullaby
Joy, joy, for Christ is born
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The presiding priest says

‘The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.’

John 1:14

Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant saviour,
you who makes every birth holy.

May we, who like the shepherds
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love,
return to our tasks with joy.

May we, for whom the heavens have opened
proclaim that God is with us,

May we who have shared in this feast
go out to be instruments of your peace, day by day.

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit,
to stand with you in the world.**

BLESSING

The presiding priest says

Christ, who by his incarnation,
gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with joy and peace

and may the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you,
this night and forever more. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *we stand and sing*

**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let songs be heard on high;
while fields and streams and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

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

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DISMISSAL

Go now in love and peace, that the world may know
the wonder and mystery of God's love.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Postlude

**You are welcome this service booklet with you to reflect on
or share with a family member or friend.**

**The community of St Aidan's wishes you a very happy Christmas
and a joy filled New Year!**

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

SUMMER SERVICES

One Sunday Service held at 9am

Sunday 28th December 2025
until Sunday 25th January 2026

