

# *Christmas*

*at St Aidan's, Remuera*

*Christmas Eve*  
*9:30pm*

**Presiding Priest:**

*The Reverend Wesley Fifita, Priest Associate*

**Preacher:**

*The Reverend Dr Kim Benton, Priest-in-Charge*

**Organist:** *Graeme Fuller*

**Liturgist:** *Max Caughey*

**Readers:** *Yvonne Kennedy, John Priestley, John Pospos*

**Servers:** *Kumar Mather, Shivanti Mather, Mark De Courcy*

*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 tonight.*

*We hope that you will find the peace of Christ in our worship together.*

*May God's grace fill our worship as we delight in the gift of the nativity.*

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**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**

**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!**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE GATHERING**

*The presiding priest greets the people informally and says;*

Grace to you and peace to you 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.**

*The liturgist continues*

May the love that breathes life into all humanity and all creation,  
**Be born in us today.**

May the love that brings us healing,

**Be born in us today.**

May the love that overcomes hatred,

**Be born in us today.**

May the love that forgives and renews,

**Be born in us today.**

May the love that brings the blessing of peace,

**Be born in us today.**

**May we rest in God's peace as we worship together today.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Over the Advent Season we have lit candles for peace, hope, joy and love.  
Tonight we light the Christ Candle.

*The Christ candle is lit.*

God of peace, hope, joy and love,  
we celebrate your gifts of life and justice in Jesus' birth

**We have looked for your coming;  
we have heard your good news.  
Give us a sense of wonder and grace  
so that all people can rejoice  
in your transforming words and actions. Amen.**

**THE CONFESSION** – *please sit or kneel as you are able. 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.

E te Ariki kia aroha mai.  
**Christ, 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.

E te Ariki kia aroha mai.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive our fear and the hardness of our hearts.

E te Ariki kia aroha mai.  
**Christ, 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*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a  
child is born, to us a son is given.”

*Isaiah 9: 2,6*

**THE COLLECT** – *we pray together*

**God of grace and truth,  
whose word brings light to birth  
in the heart of a darkening world,  
which fears a love it cannot name:  
may flesh be blessed and born anew  
by a truth which leaves the heavens  
and walks the waiting earth;  
through Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate. Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 9: 2-7**

*Please be seated*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9

*After the reading*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE SECOND READING: Titus 3.4-7**

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus, Chapter 3

*After the reading*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE GRADUAL HYMN** - *we stand and sing*

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the glad-some tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bend-ed knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**THE GOSPEL: Luke 2: 1-20** *Please stand as you are able*

*The gospeller says*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter two, beginning at the first verse:

**Praise and glory to God.**

*After the Gospel the gospeller says*

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ the Word.**

**THE SERMON**     *The Reverend Dr Kim Benton, Priest-in-Charge*

*A time of silence is kept*

**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 as you are comfortable*

*The presiding priest says*

Let us pray to our incarnate God,

who has brought us out of darkness and into magnificent light.

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

Incarnate God, on this holy night,

your son Jesus Christ was born in human flesh.

We thank you for all those in medical, relief work and first responders;

all who care for the physical, and emotional needs of others this

Christmas.

Heal and protect all those whose flesh and spirits have been damaged by illness, violence or natural disaster.

Loving God, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Christ our home, on this holy night,

there was no room for your son in the inn.

Give courage to all who are homeless

and all who live in poverty.

Bring justice and equity to our society we pray.

Loving God, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

God of new birth, on this holy night,  
Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.  
Bless and strengthen all those who labour this night.  
Bring peace to those who long to bring new life into the world.

Loving God, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Illuminating God, on this holy night,  
the Christ child came as a light shining in the darkness.  
May all who live with a sense of  
hopelessness and despair know comfort.  
Bring peace and hope to those who are isolated or alone.

Loving God, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Reconciling God, on this holy night,  
the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth":  
strengthen those who work for peace and for climate and economic justice  
around all the world.  
May your peace pervade all who are threatened by conflict and dislocation.

Loving God, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Redeeming God, on this holy night,  
shepherds in the fields heard "glad tidings of great joy".  
Bless our homes and hearts and all our kin as we receive this good news.  
Give us grace to proclaim your love to all the world.

Loving God, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, on this holy night,  
heaven came down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.  
Bless all those who watch and wait for death this night,  
and all those who will face Christmas this year  
with an empty seat at the table.

Loving God, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

God of celebration and delight, on this holy night,  
Christians the world over will celebrate Christ's birth.  
Many millions will do so in isolation from their homes.  
Open our hearts that Christ may be born in us today.  
Renew your church as the body of Christ.

Loving God, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

God who comes to dwell in our midst, us hear us as we pray for ourselves  
..... and so we pray together;

**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 LORD S PRAYER -**

*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.**

**THE PEACE** – *please stand as you are able*

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.*

**THE OFFERTORY HYMN** - *we remain standing and sing*

*(During this hymn there will be an opportunity to make an offering)*

**Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you 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.***

**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 in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King.***

**Hail the heaven-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 need die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King.***

**PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS** – *please remain standing as you are able*

We give you thanks, Holy One,  
for the world of wonder you have made –  
forest and field, sea and sky;  
and for the gift of grace that you have given –  
a little child lying in a manger.  
Receive these gifts of tenderness and love,  
of gratitude and praise,  
and use them for your glory;  
in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the child of Bethlehem, we pray.

**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,  
and of your own we give you.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 your Son,  
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 may 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 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.**

### **INVITATION**

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

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Please come forward when the sidespeople invite you to do so. 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 ask the presiding priest.*

*If you prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this by keeping your hands by your sides. You may prefer to remain in your seat and pray.*

*Please do whatever is comfortable for you.*

**DURING COMMUNION WE SING**  
**Silent Night**

**Silent night, holy night:  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**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.'**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**What Child is This**

**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!**

*Tune Greensleaves*

#### **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, little one, 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 work 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  
proclaiming the good news of God our Emmanuel.**

**BLESSING**

*The presiding priest says*

May Christ our infant saviour  
give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds,  
the awe of the worshipping sages  
and the humility and love of the holy family.

May you become as little children,  
and may the blessing of God,  
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life,  
be with you and remain with you,  
this night and forever more. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN - *we stand and sing*  
Joy to the World**

**Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the Earth!  
The saviour reigns;  
let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**



# SUMMER SERVICES

One Sunday Service held at 9am

Sunday 28th December 2025  
until Sunday 25th January 2026

