



## Christmas Eve Nativity Service

24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

6.00pm

Please remember to turn your mobile phones to silent.  
You are welcome to take photographs.

## Upside-down Christmas

1: Carol our Christmas, an upside-down Christmas;  
Snow is not falling and trees are not bare.  
Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child,  
Warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.

2: Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,  
Water and river and lure of the beach.  
Sing in the happiness of open spaces,  
Sing a nativity summer can reach!

3: Shepherds and mustersers move over hillsides.  
Finding not angels but sheep to be shorn;  
Wise ones make journeys whatever the season.  
Searching for signs of the truth to be born.

4: Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,  
Made in the moment a woman gives birth;  
Hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,  
Everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.

Shirley Erena Murray  
Tune: REVERSI (Colin Gibson)

*Please be seated*

**Welcome:** *Dean Di Woods*

*Leader:* Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**All:** **Come, let us worship God, source of life and light.**

*Leader:* Christ was born and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.

**All:** **Come, let us worship God, source of life and light.**

*Reader:* This Christmas eve, we pause together,  
we steady our busy minds,  
we still and quiet our souls within us,  
we watch. We wait...

## Lighting of the Christ Candle:

*Leader:* This Christmas the light of Christ comes among us.

**All:** May we live in the way of the Light.  
Come, let us worship God, source of life and light.

**YPC Sing:** The Angel's Carol – J. Rutter

*The children and whānau are invited to sit on the steps to listen to, and join in with, the Nativity story.*

**Carols during the reading of the Nativity:**

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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

2 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.



## *Away in a Manger*

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 in the hay.

2 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.



3 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,  
prepare us for Heaven, to live with you there.

## *We Three Kings*

1 We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Frankincense to offer have I; incense for the Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high.  
*(Chorus) O star ....*

3 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
*(Chorus) O star ....*

4 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.  
*(Chorus) O star ....*

We all move up to circle the Nativity scene for the blessing and to place the baby Jesus in the crib.



The baby is placed into the crib by Mary

### **Blessing of the Nativity Scene: Deborah**

Blessed are you, O God,  
who, for love of us, sent Jesus to be born of Mary and  
cared for by Joseph to teach us more about you.

Bless with your eternal presence this crib scene;  
may we who have come  
to celebrate Christ's holy birth, grow stronger in faith,  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring.

Jesus, baby of Bethlehem,  
welcomed by the angels and shepherds,  
worshiped by the wise ones,  
living among us as our brother,  
light that shines in our darkness;  
come and dwell with us,  
this and every day. **Amen.**

**We all move back to our seats for the Prayers.**

YPC Reader 1: We give thanks for the angels in our lives  
**All: who bring us good news and help us.**

YPC Reader 2: We give thanks for the shepherds in our lives,

**All: the people who work hard and look after our needs.**

YPC Reader 3: We give thanks for the people in our lives

**All: who are kind and generous like the three wise men.**

YPC Reader 4: We give thanks for our families who love us.

**All: We pray for people who are sad or missing people they love this Christmas time. Help us to care for them. Amen.**



**YPC Sing:** The Star Carol – J. Rutter

### **Farewell & Blessing: Pip & Deborah**

Pip: Thank you for coming to our Christmas Eve nativity service, for joining in and supporting our Tamariki who did such a great job of bringing the Christmas story to life. As you leave, we have a small gift at the back for you to remember our time together.

Deborah: May you all know the true meaning of Christmas: God's love is shown to us by coming, in Jesus, to share our earthly life in all its joy and pain and helping us to understand that it is love that we were made for and what we are called to.

Pip: Tonight we are excited!

**All: May God bless us with wonder.**

Pip: Tonight we are expectant!

**All: May God bless us with gladness.**

Pip: Tonight we are on tip-toe!

**All: May God bless us with new birth.**

Deborah: In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful**

**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 See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks,  
draw near with awe;  
we too will join their journey  
to the manger:**

*O come, let us adore him ...*

**3 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 ...*

As you leave there is the opportunity at the main entrance to make a donation/koha towards the cost of the Cathedral's mission and ministry.

Thank you so much for joining us for this service of worship.

*May you know God's blessing this Christmastide!*

*We hope you have a wonderful Christmas.*



## Does your child love to sing?



The Children's Choir of Waiapu Cathedral provides wonderful musical training, social interactions, and opportunities to sing in this beautiful building

- Age range: 7—13 years
- No previous choir experience is necessary.
- Practices held 6:00—6:45pm on Thursday evenings, from Feb - Dec.
- Interested? Questions? Our Director of Music, Anthony Tattersall, would love to hear from you. Email [anthony.tattersall@waiapu.com](mailto:anthony.tattersall@waiapu.com) or phone 027 300 1163

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