



Christmas Eve Eucharist



11.00pm – 24 December 2025

The Right Reverend Andrew Hedge, *Bishop of Waiapu*

The Very Reverend Alister Hendery, *Acting Dean*

The Reverend Dr Deboarh Broome, *Priest Associate*

Anthony Tattersall, *Director of Music*

With

The Waiapu Cathedral Choir

The choral setting of this Eucharist is
Missa Carolae – James Whitbourn

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The Gathering of the Community

We remain seated while the choir sing the introit from the back of the Cathedral: O Emmanuel – Esenvaldes

We then stand for the 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 for our salvation;
Jesus, to thee be all 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!**

**I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua,
te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu. Āmine.**

**Grace and peace to you from God.
God fill you with truth and joy.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth; we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father. (*John 1:14*)

We sit

Throughout Advent – as we have anticipated the coming of Christ – we have lit a candle on the wreath: for hope, peace, joy, and love. Tonight, the Christ candle is lit as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

We light this candle for the Christ we greet today.

Shine within our hearts today.

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the world and hope of all nations:
**Come and dwell within our hearts,
that we may proclaim your glory
and join the song of the angels;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

We remain seated or kneel.

Jesus, you are the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you are God's true child, born of Mary:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, you are Word made flesh, full of grace and truth:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God,

we confess our sins.

*The choir leads us in the **Kyries** – from page 1 of the buff insert*

God forgives you.
Be at peace.

*We stand as the choir leads us in the **Gloria** –
from page 2 of the buff insert*

We remain standing

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
The word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Let us pray with joy and hope.

**Son of God, light that shines in the dark,
child of joy and peace,
help us to come to you
and be born anew this holy night.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

The Proclamation

The Readings

We sit

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (9:2-7) & Titus (2:11-14)

After the reading

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

We stand for the Gospel Hymn

**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 shining
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 praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth:
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven:
no ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray:
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:1-14)
Praise and glory to God.

After the reading
Te Rongopai tēnei a te Karaiti.
This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ the Word.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

We stand

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.

We kneel or sit

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this
night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word
of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.
God of love
grant our prayer.

In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

God of love

grant our prayer.

In this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

God of love

grant our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

God of love

grant our prayer.

In this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of recreation. Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

God of love

grant our prayer.

In this holy night Christians throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness.

God of love

grant our prayer.

In this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

God of love

grant our prayer.

In this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfil in your love all who have gone before us in the faith. May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

God of love

grant our prayer.

Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfil your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word. **Amen.**

The Peace

We stand

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 rangimārie o te Ariki ki a koutou.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn:

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Through all the earth, goodwill and peace,
from heaven's all-gracious king.'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

With sorrow brought by sin and strife
the world has suffered long
and, since the angels sang, have passed
two thousand years of wrong;
the nations, still at war, hear not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise and cease the strife
and hear the angels sing!

And those whose journey now is hard,
whose hope is burning low,
who tread the rocky path of life
with painful steps and slow:
O listen to the news of love
which makes the heavens ring!
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

And still the days are hastening on –
by prophets seen of old –
towards the fullness of the time
when comes the age foretold:
then earth and heaven renewed shall see
the Prince of Peace their king;
and all the world repeat their song
which now the angels sing.

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness,
and the power, and the glory,
and the victory and the majesty.
**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,
and of your own we give you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

We remain standing throughout, though feel free to sit if needs be.

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in places
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;
through your eternal Word
you have created all things from the beginning
and formed us in your own image;
male and female you created us.

When we sinned and turned away
you called us back to yourself
and gave your son to share our human nature.
In him the light which shines for all has come into the world,
and he has become one with us
that we may become one with you.

In him you have made us a holy people
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

English translation – sung by the choir from page 3 of the buff insert

*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.*

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
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 many
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it,
to remember me.

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

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life
and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

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 Communion

God is with us, and so 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 for ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

The priest invites the people saying

Haere mai e te kāhui a te Atua,
tangohia ēnei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

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

*The choir leads us in singing the **Agnus Dei** –
from page 4 of the buff insert*

- *Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to receive only the bread.*
- *We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine. This is safer for you and others.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available from the person giving communion.*
- *Advise an Usher if you need communion brought to you in your seat*

*During Communion the choir sing:
O Magnum Mysterium – Lauridsen*

After communion, while we remain kneeling or seated, we sing:

**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,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

Prayer After Communion

The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory. (*John 1:14*)

Silence

Infinite, intimate God,
in this Eucharist we have celebrated your presence with us.
May we grow in the divine life of Christ
who humbly shared our human life.

**Fill us with joy
and send us out to share this good news with others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ Emmanuel. Amen.**

May Christ the Prince of Peace give you his peace, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

We stand for The Last Gospel – John 1:1-14

Final Hymn:

**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 as one with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
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 may 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.**

Dismissal of the Community

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.



Opportunities to worship with us:

Christmas Day

8.00am	Eucharist with Carols
10.00am	Choral Eucharist
9.00am	Ormond Chapel Family Eucharist – Napier Terrace

Every Sunday of the year we gather for Eucharist at 8am and 10am.

That parish office reopens on Monday 12th January.

Email the Parish at admin.cathedral@waiapu.com
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Cathedral Website www.napiercathedral.org.nz