

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“The Stone Church on the Hill”

Mission Statement

To worship God, follow Christ,
transforming the world in the
power of the Spirit

www.cashmerechurch.org.nz

Minister

Rev Hamish Galloway

Phone 027 603 0063

Email: minister@cashmerechurch.org.nz

Church Office:

2 Macmillan Avenue, Cashmere,
Christchurch

Phone 332 7129

Email: cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 20th December 2020
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Preacher: Dr Anne Shave



Annunciation by Jan van Eyck 1395 - 1441

A very warm welcome to you all, whether this is your first time or thousandth time in church. You are welcome whatever your age, gender, marital status, disability, poverty or wealth, race or sexuality. You are welcome whether you have a deep and mature faith in Christ; are uncertain and still seeking; or have no faith. If you are new to church, please do not hesitate to ask one of those on duty if you have any questions.

You are invited to stay for Morning Tea after the service.

Order of Worship

Please stand as the Bible is processed in

Lighting the Advent Candles

(Elisabeth Cooch)



We will sing:

1. *Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to everyone.
He comes. He comes.*
2. *Light one candle for peace,
One bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to everyone.
He comes. He comes.*
3. *Light one candle for love,
One bright candle for love.
He brings love to everyone.
He comes. He comes.*
4. *Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy.
He brings joy to everyone.
He comes. He comes.*

Prayer of approach

Welcome to worship and notices

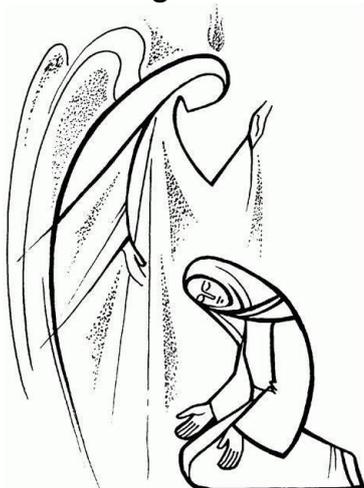
Hymn 215: Of the Father's love begotten

Reading: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-29 (p.587 OT) (*Peter Nelson*)

Choir: "God's Surprise"

1. Who would think that what was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army,
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way.
God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.
2. Shepherds watch and wise men wonder
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon
Hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
Watch a child laid in the hay;
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.
3. Centuries of skill and science
Span the past from where we move
Yet experience questions whether,
With such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
Lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Words and arrangement, Iona Community.



Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (p.74 NT) (*Ann Jennings*)

Hymn 222: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Reading: Luke 1:39-55 (p. 74 NT) (*Clare Shave*)

Choir: "My Heart is Leaping"

1. My heart is leaping,
my soul is glad,
for God has remembered me,
a humble servant;
I now am blessed
For this Child will set people free.
2. The Holy Spirit
has come on me,
a prophecy to fulfill;
I am contented
to let it be,
according to God's holy will.
3. God's arm is might,
the proud brought down,
the lowly are lifted high;
the rich sent empty,
the hungry filled,
the covenant made will not die.
4. For God shows mercy
from age to age
and keeps faith those before;
the promise given
to Abraham
is honoured and stands evermore.

Words, Shirley Erena Murray.
Music, Barry Brinson.

Reading: Mary's response (*Elizabeth Taggart*)

Song: Breath of Heaven (*Debbie Maples*)

Prayer (*Hamish Galloway*)

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation
fill us with the hope that we can be transformed by your Spirit.
Help us when our faith feels frail and hope is hard to sustain.
Forgive us when we wander away from you.

***Give us the peace of knowing that you came
to share our human life and redeem us for the sake of love.
Grant us the courage to respond to your call
with willing obedience, as Mary did.***

We ask these things in the name of Jesus whose kingdom we seek.

Amen

Reading: "Love came down at Christmas" by Christina Rossetti
(*Bryan Gainsford*)

Choir: "God was in Christ"

1. God was in Christ and in that frame,
a human child, God truly came.
2. In us is held all that God is –
the will to good, the well of peace.
3. The spark to fire the shape of stars,
the shout of joy and passion's scars.

4. That child is born time after time:
in each of us God dreams a dream.
5. God is in us, by love conceived,
in struggle born, in faith believed.

Words, Shirley Erena Murray.
Music, Colin Gibson.

Song: Mary Did You Know? (*Debbie Maples*)

Reflection: The angel's message (*Anne Shave*)

Music for reflection: Gabriel's Oboe (*Jacqueline Kotula*)

Prayers for others: (*Helen Matthews*)

Offering: Our freewill offering to support the mission and Church of Jesus Christ will be received. If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand to join in the prayer of dedication:

God of all goodness and grace, in this season of Advent we are particularly mindful of the needs of others.

Help us to support people who are in need of any kind.

Bless these offerings of money and food and those whose lives will be touched by them.

We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introduction to our final reading and hymn

Reading: "24th December" by Joy Cowley

(Chris Johnstone, Cecile Pierce, Alan Simson)

Hymn 227: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Concluding prayer (based on Romans 15:13):

***May the God of hope fill us
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Amen (sung)



Healing Service 20th December

Our final healing service for this year will include the opportunity to pray for people in need around the world as well as for the needs of those present. Do consider coming after morning tea to join in this quiet time with others. Perhaps you might like to light a candle as part of your prayer for someone who is overseas? Communion and anointing with oil are offered and all are welcome to come forward to receive one or both of these. The service usually lasts approximately 25 minutes.

Carol singing on Monday 21st December

Come and enjoy singing carols for some of our parishioners in rest homes and in the local community. We shall meet at the church at 6pm and travel together, finishing at Anne Shave's home for a cuppa and mince pies around 8:30pm.

Church open Thursday 24th December

The church will be open between 9am and 6pm on Thursday 24th December so that people can come in and spend some quiet time in prayer or reflection, perhaps lighting a candle while they are here.

We need a further four people to offer to sit in the church for an hour, whilst the premises are open. Please speak to Anne Shave.

Ian French-Wright Those wishing to contact Ian are welcome to do so. His email is ian.french-wright@xtra.co.nz. If you want his postal address, please ask Gail.

Volunteers needed for our Christmas Day

Thanks for those that have volunteered for the Christmas Eve. We still need more helpers for Christmas Day – if you are available, please let Elizabeth Taggart know.

Assistance required one Saturday morning in January to help Robert Aitken to move from Linwood to Hackthorne Road. If you have a trailer, that would be great, but he can hire one if needed.

Robert also has a large upright freezer and an upright fridge for which long-term storage is needed.

If you can assist Robert with either of these please let him know.

The Alpine Presbytery Newsletter is produced weekly, and a copy is on the notice board in the foyer. Speak to Gail if you would like to subscribe to receive it directly.

Church Rosters	This week – 20 December	Next week – 27 December
Door Duty	Janet Aldridge, Tony Waters, Colin Reid	Elisabeth Cooch, David & Jane Kim
Morning Tea & Coffee	David & Jane Kim	Janet Aldridge, Kathleen Anderson
Bible Reading	Ann Jennings	Annette McAdam
Candle Lighting	Elisabeth Cooch	Ann Jennings
Food Trolley	Barbara & Richard Leete	David Troughton
Money Counting (Monday)	Bruce McAlister	<i>(office closed)</i>

Christmas in Cashmere

SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Sunday 20th December @ 10am

CAROLS IN THE GARDEN

Sunday 20th December @ 6pm

Community carols for all ages, with music from the Steadfast Band, in the grounds of 1 Macmillan Ave (access off Cashmere Green on Dyers Pass Road).

Bring rugs, picnic, coins for sausage sizzle & coffee.

(In the church if wet)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday 24th December

Light a Candle in Remembrance

The church will be open during the day for personal prayer, remembrance & contemplation

Midnight Watch Candlelight Service

Commencing at 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS MORNING

Friday 25th December

All-age family friendly celebration @ 9.30am