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Hours 9 am—3.30 pm Monday to Friday

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Sunday 11.00 am—12.00 noon

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The Dean: The Very Rev'd Jan Joustra
Phone: 839 3551 (day off: Monday)

Canon Pastor: The Rev'd Canon Phil Wilson
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Priest-Assistants: The Rev'd Alan Parkin
The Rev'd Ken Walker
The Ven Reg Nicholson
The Rev'd Canon Pine Campbell 856 4627
The Rev'd Canon Jennifer Stuart
David Bailey 839 6350
Anne McAloon 839 4683

Dean's Warden: Canon Dr Rachael Griffiths-Hughes 855 7145

People's Warden: Anne Holm 847 7000

Director of Music: Wendy Tyrrell 853 8375

Assistant Organist: Sue MacLean 854 6434

Bell Tower Captain: Daryl Smart 829 7655

Prayer Wheel Co-ordinator: Dilip Kurien 021 057 3897

Master of Ceremonies:

Verger:

A wheelchair, walker and baby changing facilities
are available, please ask for them.

YOUNG CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS

We want children to feel welcome here. There is a basket at the back of the church with bags for pre-schoolers 2+ years of age. It contains items for quiet activities. Feel free to help yourselves to one. We hope this will help you and your family enjoy your Sunday morning worship.



The Waikato Cathedral Church Of St Peter

Christmas Day 2008

8.00 am Eucharist with Hymns
President: The Ven Reg Nicholson
Preacher: The Dean, Jan Joustra

9.45 am Choral Eucharist
President and Preacher: The Dean, Jan Joustra

Christmas Day

Introduction: My friends in Christ, we come together this morning to celebrate the love of God the Father, revealed today in the birth of his Son. On this day we are reminded that not only did God become human, but that we are called to life with God through his Son. May we who come in praise and thanksgiving to celebrate this holy feast, realise in our hearts the vocation to which we have been called as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Opening Hymn: 27—O Come, All Ye Faithful

INTROIT

President: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Liturgist: To prepare ourselves for this celebration we pray together.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
so that we may truly love you
and worthily praise your holy name;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Liturgist

Invitation to confession

please sit or kneel

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

cf Matthew 1.21

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 sins.

Silence is kept

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.

Those for whom prayers have been requested

- **For those in need:** Nicholas, David, Elizabeth, Len, Helen, Lesley, Matthew, Vernon, Helga, Maurice, Pearl, Danae, Sylvia, Jenny, Lane, Denis, David, Bill, Bruce, Janet.

Rota today 8.00 am

Liturgist: Wendy Tyrrell

Readers: Andrea Haines
Wendy Tyrrell

Rota today 9.45 am

Liturgist: Ann Couch

Readers: David McAdam
Bruce Ram

Gospel: Clergy

Intercessor: Clergy

Welcomers: Carolyn Knight
Bev Yendell

Chalice: Ann Couch
Jocelyn Fish
Jean Redout
Jean Robertson
Shirley Wilson

SHOP AND CATHEDRAL OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Cathedral Bookstore will be closed from Wednesday 24 December, and re-open Monday 2 February.

The Cathedral Office will be closed from Wednesday 24 December and re-open Monday 5 January 2009.

Please note there will be no service on Wednesday 31 December. The Rev'd Ken Walker will be taking the Wednesday 10.00 am services during January 2009.

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DISMISSAL

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

Final Hymn: 22—Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Final voluntary will be played by Barry Ferguson MA, FRCO, FRSCM

We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The president says the absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our
Saviour forgive **us our** sins and make **us** holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

please stand

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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 COLLECT: Almighty God, who gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary: grant that we being born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever one God, now and for ever. Amen.

About 540 BC, the Persians conquered Babylon, and the Jewish exiles were free to go home. The prophet who added to the 8th century book of Isaiah cannot contain his delight at the prospect.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah: (52: 7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. (NRSV)
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

O Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Sing, and give praise to God's name
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.
Proclaim God's glory to the nations:
God's marvellous deeds to all the peoples.
For you O Lord are great and highly to be praised:
more to be feared than all the gods.
The gods of the nations are no more than idols:
but you O Lord are the one who made the heavens.
strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord you families of the nations:

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

THE AGNUS DEI—MATTHIAS

ANTHEM: He smiles within his cradle

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The president says the invitation to communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

THE INVITATION

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us. Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The president and people receive communion.

An invitation is extended to members of other denomination, to come forward to receive communion.

Prayer after Communion: God the father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

The post-communion prayer is said by the president, then all say:

to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The president says:

The Lord is here.

All **God's spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond

All **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.**

The president recalls the Last Supper,

All **Glory to you Lord Christ:
Your death we show forth;
Your resurrection we proclaim;
Your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER—Gillard

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Ascribe to the Lord honour and might.
Ascribe due honour to God's holy name:
bring offerings, and enter the courts of the Lord.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe.
Proclaim to the nations, 'The Lord is king:
the Lord has made the world so firm it cannot be removed,
and will judge the peoples with justice.'
Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad:
let the sea roar and all the creatures in it.
Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them:
then all the trees of the forest~
will shout with joy before the Lord.
For you O Lord are coming to judge the earth:
with righteousness you will judge the world,
and the peoples with your truth.

Glory to the Father and ' to the ' Son:
and ' to the ' Holy ' Spirit;
as it was in the be'ginning • is ' now:
and shall be for ' ever.' A'men.

The anonymous treatise we know as the Letter to the Hebrews argues strongly for the superiority of Christ over all that had preceded in Israel. It was written as a letter of encouragement.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (1: 1-4)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (NRSV)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 16—Away in a Manager

John opens his account of the gospel not with the story of the birth of Jesus, but by placing the events in the widest possible context, from the beginning of everything.

Alleluia, **alleluia!** A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John

(1: 1-14)

Praise and glory to God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (NRSV)

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

SERMON

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

All We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human.

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**All fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

**All Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**All truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**All The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

from the Athanasian Creed

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God:
be born in us today.

Merciful Father

**All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE (*please stand*)

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

cf Isaiah 9,6

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn: 31—Once in Royal David's City

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory and the majesty.

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

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine