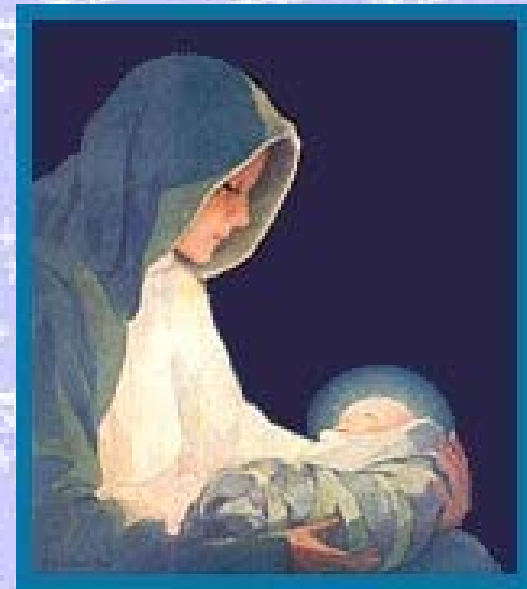


The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter
PO Box 338 Hamilton 3204
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THE WAIKATO
CATHEDRAL CHURCH
OF ST PETER

MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS
EUCCHARIST

The Christmas—Epiphany Season

Welcome to St Peter's Cathedral for this celebration of the birth of Our Lord. You are invited to participate in all of the parts of the service in bold type and in the joyful singing of hymns.

Members of other denomination are very welcome to receive bread and wine at communion. If it is not your practice to receive communion you are also welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Christmas is the most joyous time of the Christian year as we celebrate God coming to live amongst us, in the form of Jesus Christ. The exact time of year that Jesus was born is not really known, all we know is what we are told in the gospel according to Luke, that it was while Quirinius was governor of Syria that the birth of Jesus took place. Christmas came to be celebrated by the Church on the same day as the pagan Romans celebrated the Winter Solstice, which was symbolised by the re-birth of the Sun on 25 December. Since the fourth century the Church has kept that day as the day to celebrate the birth of the Son of Righteousness. Prior to the adoption of 25 December Christians celebrated on 6 January, the day we now remember as Epiphany. For many Christians in the Orthodox tradition Christmas is still to this day celebrated on 6 January.

The word Epiphany means revelation; for Christians in the Western Tradition, this is the day on which the wise men came to visit the infant Jesus.

The services of Christmas and Epiphany are most remembered for their joyous singing of the well loved Christmas hymns, often referred to as carols.

On behalf of St Peter's Cathedral
I would like to take this opportunity
to wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas
and a happy New Year.

The Dean.

Please do not remove this booklet from the Cathedral

A minister says

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.

All Amen! We go in the name of Christ!

Hymn *(during which the choir and clergy will depart)*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Refrain	2. Christ, by highest Heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord; Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity, Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. Refrain
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3. Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Refrain

Organ Voluntary

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Holy Eucharist

Processional Entry Hymn

(Soloist only)

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!*

3. See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks,
draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us, etc.

5. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest:"
O come, let us, etc.

(Choir only)

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's
womb;
Very God, begotten,
not created:
O come, let us, etc.

4. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love
and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
O come, let us, etc.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us, etc.

The Blessing of the crib

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in

faith, and receive the fullness of life he came to bring; who is alive and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Introit

The president may say

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

Prayer of Preparation

All **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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to confession

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.
We have sinned:

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds first saw the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiance beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

Silence is kept.

All **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.**

The Dismissal

Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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.**

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 *(sung by the choir)*

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*An invitation is extended to any who are members of other
denominations to come forward to receive the Eucharist.*

*During the distribution of the Eucharist the Choir will sing an
anthem followed by the post communion hymn.*

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.**

(Please stand)

Gloria in Excelsis *(led by the choir)*

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

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

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 drink it, to remember me.

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

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 Jesus 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.

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

you gave your promises to Abraham and Sarah
and bestowed your favour on the Virgin Mary.

Above all we give you thanks and praise
for your grace in sending Jesus Christ,
not for any merit of our own
but when we had turned away from you.

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.
And now we give you thanks because,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother,
that being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

We were bound in sin, but in your compassion you redeemed us,
reconciling us to yourself with the precious blood of Christ.

In your Son you suffered with us and for us,
offering us the healing riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and
holiness.

Therefore with people of every nation, tribe and language, with the whole
Church on earth and in heaven, joyfully we give you thanks and say:

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.**

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.

The Psalm 96

1. Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2. Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦
tell out his salvation from day to day.
3. Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples.
4. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦
he is more to be feared than all gods.
5. For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
6. Honour and majesty are before him; ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.
7. Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
8. Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.
9. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.
10. Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
11. Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
12. Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.
13. For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in
the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus (2:11-14)

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to
renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live
lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the

blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

N.Tate 1700

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

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

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

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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 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 president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The president says

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.

Honour and worship are indeed your due,
our Lord and our God, through Jesus Christ,
for you created all things;
by your will they were created,
and for your glory they have their being.

In your loving purpose

you chose us before the foundation of the world
to be your people;

Hymn: 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.

3. 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.

2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

4. 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.

Hymn: What Child Is This

1. 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 laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,
His love all loves exceeding:
Nail, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
The babe, the son of Mary

3. 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,
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

**A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke.** (2:1-20)

All: Praise and glory to God.

(Please turn to face the gospel as it is proclaimed)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. his was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see -- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" *(NRSV)*

(at the end of the reading)

This is the gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to Christ the Word!

The 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

We bring before God our needs and the needs of his world.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Wonderful Counsellor,

Give your wisdom to the leaders of the nations.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, make the whole world know that the government is on your shoulders.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

(At the end of the prayers the minister may say)

Bring us all to your heavenly city, to the joyful gathering of thousands of angels, to the assembly of your first born, to the spirits of good people made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant and to the sprinkled blood that promises peace.

cf Hebrews 12.22-24

Merciful Father....

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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.

All may exchange a sign of peace.