

WAIAPU



CATHEDRAL
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Christmas Eve 'Nativity Service'
24th December 2019

6.30pm

Featuring the Nativity Play
"BREAKING NEWS"

By

A Ian Burnett & Paul Kelly-Moore

A adapted for Waiapu Cathedral

Service led by Dean Ian Render & Pip Brooker

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

Welcome: *The Very Rev'd Ian Render, Dean of Waiapu*

Please stand

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.

Hymn: ***O little town of Bethlehem***

3
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.

Please be seated

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.**

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.

Nativity play: "BREAKING NEWS"

During the play we will sing the carols "While Shepherds watched" and "Away in a manger":

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 all of humankind."
3. "To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line
a Savior, 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."
6. "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin and never cease!"

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.

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.

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.

Carols:

Carol our Christmas

AA9 / CoC #7

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.

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!

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.

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.

We all move back to the Nativity scene for the blessing

The baby is placed in the manger

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE: Dean Ian Render

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 prepared it
to celebrate Christ's holy birth,

grow stronger in faith,
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring.

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

We return to our seats for the prayers

Prayers:

We give thanks for the angels in our lives
who bring us good news and help us.

We give thanks for the shepherds in our lives,
the people who work hard and look after our needs.

We give thanks for the people in our lives
who are kind and generous like the three wise men.

We give thanks for our families who love us.

We pray for people

who are sad

or missing people

they love this Christmas time.

Help us to care for

them. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

As Christ teaches us we pray -

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

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**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those**

Star-Child, earth-Child
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,
*This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!*

Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know, *this year...*

Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears,

**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.

*This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!*

Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child,
knowing joy in store, *this year...*

Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
star of stars that shine,
*This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!*

Words by Shirley Erena Murray

Here is a poem/song that we can think about as we receive our candles, and something to talk about at home: "This year... let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive."

Carol: The stars danced (NZ)

Please listen to a whole verse and refrain before standing to sing:

1. The stars danced,
the angels sang
The night God came to earth.
The whole vault of heaven rang
To celebrate his birth
*We will dance, we will sing,
We will praise our heav'nly King
At his birth!*

2. Mary, his mother smiled
To see her babe new born.
Shepherds came hurrying,
Left their flocks forlorn.
We will dance, we will sing...

3. Wise men who saw his star,
Knew their Lord was here,
Came with their offerings,
Incense, gold and myrrh.
We will dance, we will sing...

4. We too will give to him
Gifts of love and praise.
Dance for him, sing for him,
Rejoice in him always.
*We will dance, we will sing,
We will praise our heav'nly King
At his birth!*

Words and music by Barbara Gillard

CoC #43



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

GODSPELL 2020

Look out for the Cathedral's production of the Rock Musical "Godspell" to be staged at the end of May next year.

Tickets available now at iTicket

