



20th December 2020 Rev Donald Hegan

Call to Worship

L: The Lord has done great things for us!

C: And we are filled with joy!

L: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

C: Our tears into songs of joy!

L: O Jesus our Emmanuel, come anew in our hearts this day,

C: And remain in us forever - - - based on Psalm 126

Carol: Come and join the celebration

Prayer:

Notices & Special Anniversaries:

Reading - Luke 2:1-7 them to stay in the inn... pg 1590

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

Reading: Luke 2:8-14 pg 1591

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks

Carol: Hark the herald angels

Reading: Luke 2:15-16 pg 1591

Benediction Now unto Him

Carol: Away in a manger

Elders on Duty for December
Neville Wilson and Neville Harris

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Maria

Organist Len Hockly

Offering:

Pianist Rosemary Harris

Carol: We three Kings

Door Greeting Erin Stubbs and Alex Kiddie

Reading: Matthew 2:13-15 pg 1498

Security 3rd week Ron Buller

Carol: Silent Night

Sound Andrew Clow

Prayer Chain We are available to pray for you, your friends and families in your joys and concerns. Please contact Glynnis (576 4814) or the office.

THE COMING WEEK (4th

Monday

Tuesday 9 am– 9.25 am: Staff Meeting, Donald's office

Wednesday

Thursday Christmas Eve Service at 6.30pm

Friday Christmas Day at 9.30am

Saturday

Sunday Sunday worship 9.30am

Would you like to join the Sound Team? We welcome anyone who is interested and provide training and support. Its not difficult and is a great opportunity to extend your skills. Please contact the office.

The Hegans: Our grateful thanks for your amazing generosity toward us. Our farewell brunch and the speeches you gave for us were humbling, a very sweet memory to carry with us as we go into retirement. Your very generous monetary gift was overwhelming and will go towards something in our new home or my workshop, the verdict isn't in yet as we debate??!! Please accept our thanks. As a parish you will always be in our hearts as a very precious part of our ministry life.

Let's remember the people in our community - a bit like over COVID - those with no family, who maybe are housebound, are ill and alone. Please check on your neighbours, your friends. A nod, a smile, a coffee, a prayer are all not to be deemed as insignificant to those on the receiving end.

WWJD? = what would Jesus do....?

Have you considered switching over to online giving? Just a thought....

ANZ 010422 0027705 00 Ref your giving number and name. Or ask Ruth.



Finances for the month of November 2020

Total Giving	\$15968
Total Expenses	\$13367

We've talked about rebelling against consumerism by spending less but now we're encouraging you to give more... Is that a contradiction? Giving more isn't about giving more

GIVE MORE

toys, more gadgets, more clothes, more gift cards, more **stuff**.

God is calling us to give more *intentionally and relationally*. That means giving more of our time, our energy, our memories, our talents, our *presence*. It's a both/and. Spend less money and **give more of yourself** to the ones you love. We believe that the best gifts celebrate a relationship. Think back on the most meaningful gift you've ever received. Chances are that there is a story and a relationship that was connected to that gift. Now try and remember all of the gifts you were given last year...For most of us that's hard to do.

God's answer for the world's problems has never been material things. God did not give us more stuff – even good stuff like work, food, or health. He gave us himself. The most priceless and personal gift of all!

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14

Relational giving means that we think about the other person—who they are and what they care about. We focus more on giving our undivided presence and less on a pile of presents under the tree. This takes time and effort on our part. These kinds of gifts often require planning, but you'll hardly be able to wait until Christmas to give such a gift!

When we give relationally during the Advent season, this is what we remember: it's an opportunity to worship as we remind each other of the gift that was given for our sake. If we can resist the trap of giving easy gifts, and reject the assumption that giving expensive gifts is the best way to express love, something else might begin to happen. Our kids, family, neighbours, and co-workers will watch us celebrate Christmas differently, and through our actions they will hear the good news of the Gospel.

PREPARE YOURSELF



MODERATOR'S ADVENT MESSAGE 2020

RIGHT REV FAKAOFO KAIO, MODERATOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Advent is the season of preparation; when Christians get ready, focus, and plan in anticipation for Christmas. This year may be very different from any other Christmas due to Covid-19. Preparation is the keyword.

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, this year 29 November. We, the Church, recall our hopes and expectancy in the comings of Christ - past, present, and future. Christmas will always be Christmas. That magical day when we celebrate the

Baby of Bethlehem.

Whether it be in the snow of the Northern Hemisphere or be in the warm summer of the Southern hemisphere, it is a wonderful season of hope, love, peace, and joy. Let's be prepared in mind, heart, and attitude. Let's be prepared for whatever coronavirus restrictions we may face.

This is a wonderful season for each one of us to strive to clear the deck. Remove any unnecessary baggage that has accumulated over the year. Prepare yourself for the baby of Christmas, Jesus.

Fakaofu

Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio, Moderator

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