



25 December 2016
Christmas Day

Welcoming the Stranger – Welcoming the Christ

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you're welcome here

Leader: Rev Dr Robyn McPhail
Musicians: Kato Akau'ola - KK Clyde Foster - Kaeo
Readers: Bob Tayler tba - Kaeo

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

Hamilton Wright Mabie, 19th century

Activity Space

Children and young people, and those who like to doodle or do something while they listen, are invited to settle in to the Activity Space.

Plugging in

Carol *O come all ye faithful*

Give Children Hope this Christmas

Through Advent we have searched and found hope in people working to make a world we all can live in. They are making spaces where hope is alive despite war and violence or when much has been lost through disaster or greed. Each of CWS's partners is working to make good news more than an cliché. They are giving people the hope that comes with education, a decent livelihood, healthcare, food, water and the opportunity to be part of strong communities. It is the word 'hope' made flesh.

Symbol of God's Presence

Carol *The virgin Mary had a baby boy* WOV232 [Bob's choice]

Clarifying our Purpose

Conversation with the Word

Reading John 1:1-14

Partner Story

The writer of John uses the interplay of darkness and light to help the reader know where the balance lies, the balance that gives life. For God is unequivocally on the side of life. And the verse that focusses the CWS Christmas Appeal is this: "The light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Coterelle School stands proudly in a clearing on a steep slope. In this small hamlet in the south east of Haiti education is highly valued. The children are keen to get going in the morning. Their mothers have washed and ironed the orange shirt that is their uniform. They eat a little corn porridge or vegetable and are off out the door, eager to meet friends and learn. Before the school day begins, the air is filled with the happy sound of their voices.

The parents are justifiably proud of the school. With the help of Christian World Service partner, Institut Culturel Karl Lévêque (ICKL), they have made huge progress. A meeting a few years ago with this isolated rural community discussed what they needed and it was an easy decision in a country where literacy is limited. The need was for a decent school for their children.

The poor peasant parents of Coterelle have invested a lot in this school. No support from government, frequent disasters and depleting natural resources make livelihood difficult. ICKL bought a grain mill to subsidise running costs. The mill means that instead of selling their corn to a middleman and buying in cornmeal for food, they can now grind it themselves. One-armed François runs the mill that makes sure money stays in their community and partly subsidises the school. In a country where only 48% of rural

people can read or write, the highest priority of this community is the education of their children.

There is light surely. This is how light shines in the darkness. Not something you have to sit and wait and hope will somehow happen. But light shone through the love of people. The practical things ordinary people can do.

And surely there are many ways we shine that light in our own place, as well as supporting this work in lands where the struggle is even harder than our hardest times. Think of the darkness you've been shining into. Think of the darkness you'd like to pierce because of the suffering or injustice or sheer wasted potential that you see. Let's be with the light. That's what I like about Christmas: it is our clear re-affirmation that we're with the light and we'll help make it shine.

Lighting the Christmas Candle

Christmas is here.

Today we light the Christ candle.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, from that stable so long ago, shines out into every corner of the world.

O GOD OF NEW BEGINNINGS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES,
HELP US TO SING WITH THE ANGELS OF THE JOY OF YOUR COMING;
HELP US TO LIVE IN YOUR LIGHT, NOT ONLY TODAY, BUT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR,
SO THAT YOUR HOPE, LOVE AND PEACE WILL TRULY CHANGE OUR WORLD
TO BE A PLACE OF FLOURISHING AND WONDER.

Carol *Away in a manger*

Conversations around the Table

Prayers

Assurance of Love and Welcome

God, all around us we find situations which take away our faith in the birth of love among us.

If we have lost our sense of wonder and delight in life

O GOD, FORGIVE US

If we no longer expect surprises and take the gifts of others and our own gifts for granted

O GOD, FORGIVE US

When love for the world seems an impossible dream

O GOD, FORGIVE US

Adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *Liturgies for the Journey of Life*

Jesus came into this world for us.

God forgives us, heals us and brings us new life.

Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

WE HEAR AGAIN THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGELS

PROCLAIMING PEACE ON EARTH,

AND WE RECALL THE AGELESS STORY OF A BABY

BORN IN A MANGER,

AND WE KNOW BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT YOU LOVE US

MORE THAN WE CAN EVER KNOW. THANK YOU.

Prayers for the World

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Ghana, Nigeria

We sit with our prayers for the world. Use the pictures as a trigger, or the images etched in your mind, as the focus of your longings for all to be well. Your hopes, our hopes, for life for all people and for the planet. Your prayers for people you know who face challenges, and challenges come in such a large variety of forms.

...

We pray for children that they may find the food that will sustain their hopes and dreams this Christmas.

We pray that we might discover your message of peace on this day and in the year to come.

We pray for light— the light that shows us how to make the world a place we all can live in.

In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.

Carol *Not on a snowy night*

Sent to Carry Healing and Hope

Serving in the Week Ahead

In the community

... being Christ shaped

Offering Carol *Hark the herald angels sing* WOV227

Dedication and Blessing

God of grace and wonder, as we celebrate the Christ child amongst us, we give thanks and offerings.
MAY ALL THAT WE CONTRIBUTE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR WORLD.

The gift of love. The gift of joy. The gift of peace. And the gift of hope. May all these be yours today and through the year to come. Indeed always.

...[singing] *May the God of aroha nui...*

Robyn McPhail, 25.12.2016

NOTICES FOR TODAY – 25 DECEMBER 2016

Parish email: admin@kkup.org.nz

Minister: Robyn McPhail 09 283 4802, 021 0247 6280

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Church Office at Cornerstone: 09 407 8250

Find us at www.kkup.org.nz and on [Facebook](#)

Notices: Jenny Phillips 09 407 8883 jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz

KK Pastoral: Jessica Scott 09 407 5555 jomscott2@gmail.com

ROSTERED FOR NEXT SUNDAY 1 JANUARY 2017

Organists: Diane Paterson - KK Clyde Foster - Kaeo

Readers: Jan Gough - KK tba Kaeo

Door and Tea: Elaine and Ian Wright

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10 -18, Matthew 2:13 -23

CORNERSTONE Kerikeri will be closed on Boxing Day and the day after, with a presence again on Wednesday 28 December from mid morning to mid afternoon. Call by to visit, and to chat with visitors, if you wish.

KERIKERI RETIREMENT VILLAGE CHAPEL SERVICES: Every Sunday at 4.00pm at the Ted Robinson Chapel. Our parish leads the service on 22 January.

SEWING/UPHOLSTERY/UP-CYCLING FURNITURE VOLUNTEERS: for work at Northland Regional Correctional Facility, Ngawha. Are you creative and have sewing experience, upholstery skills or up-cycling of used furniture and be willing to support young men at our Youth Unit NRCF in valuable work skills or opportunities to generate money on their release from prison? Can you offer 2-3 hours weekly on a Monday/Wednesday or Thursday afternoon to assist the Sewing Tutor, Joanne, in our Sewing Industry? Full vetting required including MOJ and reference check, own transported needed, full prison Induction/training and ongoing support and supervision provided. Contact Ruth Patterson, Regional Volunteer Coordinator, ruth.patterson@corrections.gov or phone 09 3068383 Mobile: 0278866881 to discuss further.