

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“The Stone Church on the Hill”

Mission Statement

To worship God, follow Christ,
transforming the world in the
power of the Spirit

www.cashmerechurch.org.nz

Ministers

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Sunday 11th December 2022
3rd Sunday in Advent – Joy
(Gaudette – Rejoice)
Family Nativity Service

Preacher: David Coster

A very warm welcome to you all, whether this is your first time or thousandth time in church. You are welcome whatever your age, gender, marital status, disability, poverty or wealth, race or sexuality. You are welcome whether you have a deep and mature faith in Christ; are uncertain and still seeking; or have no faith. If you are new to church, please do not hesitate to ask one of those on duty if you have any questions.

Children are welcome to sit anywhere in the church, but if they wish to be more active then there are a selection of toys and books at the very back, and also in the Family Room (door between the organ & piano).

There will be **Sunday School and children's activities** today, led by Janice, for those that wish to participate.

You are invited to stay for morning tea after the service.

Whilst Masks are no longer *required*, we ask you to please respect the decisions of others with regard to whether or not they wear one.

Order of Worship

Congregational responses are in bold italics
Please stand as the Bible is processed in

Lighting the Advent Candle (*The Lee family*)

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.
We light this candle in hope.
We light this candle for peace.
We light this candle in joy!

We will sing:

Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to everyone.
He comes. He comes.
to everyone.
He comes. He comes.

Light one candle for peace,
One bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to everyone.
He comes. He comes.
to everyone.
He comes. He comes.

Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy.
He brings joy to everyone.
He comes. He comes.
to everyone.
He comes. He comes.

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news.

A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20.

Reader 1:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

Reader 2:

"I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

Let us pray:

As we light our advent candles
Light of the world shine on us.
As we prepare for Christmas time
Light of the world, shine on us.

In this world of pain and darkness,
Light of the world, shine through us.
To all the people who don't know you,
Light of the world, shine through us.

Jesus you are coming again,
Light of the world, light the way.
In the service here today
Light of the world, light the way.

Call to Worship

We come in bright joy and anticipated celebration.

We come to rejoice and give thanks!

We come in hope and wonder, mystery and confusion. We come in silent anticipation, seeking Advent glory.

We come to rejoice and give thanks!

Hymn 221: (v1,2,3 & 6) The First Nowell

Greeting:

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, with all whom you love, and all who pray for here this day!

And may the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you also.

Prayer of Invocation

O God, we long for you, we long for peace, we long for love.

We wait in excitement for your party when we can celebrate your coming into the world.

Today may we find time to rejoice, and show the world what we believe: ***that we are not alone, you are with us and you love us.***

Confession

Take our guilt,
and replace it with your splendid love.

Take our sorrow,
and water our lives with your caring compassion.

Take our concern for our own well being,
and replace it with concern for the well being of all.

Take our times of despair,
and transform them into times of hope.

Take the conflict in the world,
and infuse it with your peace.

Take our world,
and cram it with your joy.

Words of Assurance.

When God creates people, God fills them with promise.

When God creates the world, God fills it with abundance.

When God creates, God is filled with love and grace, and offers the world a new start, a new dream.

God renews, restores, and reconnects us.

And we rejoice. Amen

Notices

Passing of the peace of Christ to each other

Christmas Pageant: “Just a little Christmas” during which will be sung “Away in a manger” and “Twinkle, twinkle little star”

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.

Our freewill offering to support the mission and Church of Jesus Christ will be received.

As God gives to us, so let us give to God and to all those who wait for the love of God in so many ways.

Dedication of Offering

O God your great gifts to us are endless. Before you now we place our gifts to you and the work of the church of Jesus Christ. May your blessing be upon them and we gave them through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together (Lord's Prayer)

Presentations to the children

We sing: Little donkey

Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onward
With your precious load

Been a long time little donkey
Through the winters night
Don't give up now little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that little star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Little donkey, little donkey
Had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way

Do not falter, little donkey
There's a star ahead
It will guide you, little donkey
To a cattle shed

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that little star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way

Prayers of the People

Hymn 237: vv 1,2 & 5 Once in Royal David's city

Benediction

Threefold Amen

We sing: We wish you a Merry Christmas

(Children to be at front with Janice as this is sung)

*Please remain standing as the Bible is processed out.
Thank you for sharing in worship this morning. Please come through to the
hall for morning tea.*



Carols in the Garden – 18th December, 6pm

We need 6 volunteers to help set up for the Carols in the Garden. You would be needed from 5pm. Please speak to Elizabeth Taggart if you are able to help.

Carol singing at homes

On the evening of **Tuesday 20th December**, we will visit some of our parishioners in retirement villages to sing carols. All are welcome. Meet at the church at 6pm so that we can travel together. We shall finish with supper at Anne Shave's home in Cracroft.

Christmas Eve

Over the past few years it has been our custom at Cashmere Presbyterian to open the church throughout the day on Christmas Eve so that people may come in and sit quietly and/or light a candle for remembrance. Please tell others that the church will be open for this purpose. If you would be willing to come and sit quietly in the church for an hour, keeping an eye on the candles, please let Anne Shave know, as she is making up a roster.

Door Duty & Readings for Christmas & New Year

We have one volunteer for Door Duty on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but need two more for each of those days, as well as three for Christmas Eve. We also need readers for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. If you are able to help, please let Gail know.

Handel's Messiah

There is a performance of Handel's loved oratorio *Messiah* this afternoon at 1:30pm at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, 373 Manchester Street. Programme donation \$20 or \$15 concession.

Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards 2023

The Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board is holding Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards for 2023 in partnership with the Canterbury Horticultural Society, to recognise and celebrate those growing their own food.

Entry is free, and open to individuals, groups, organisations, schools, early learning centres, and businesses in the Community Board area. Previous entrants and award winners are welcome to enter.

Enter your garden, or nominate someone else's garden (with their permission). All entrants receive a certificate.

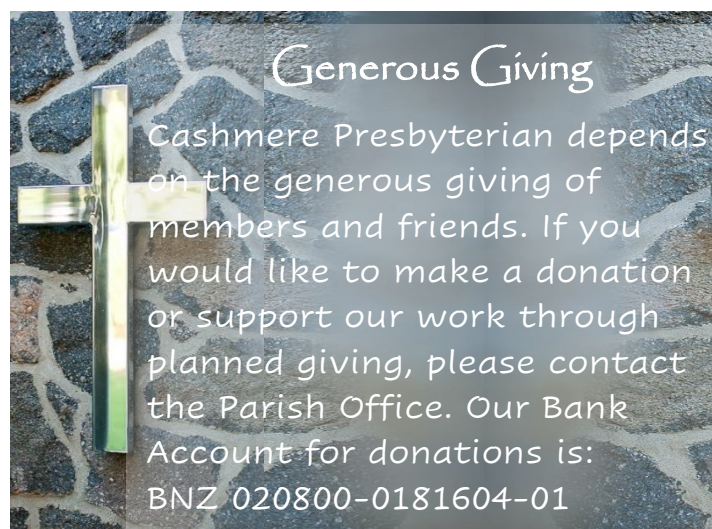
Enter online at: www.ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/community-awards/edible-garden-awards/spreydon-cashmere-heathcote-edible-garden-awards/ or request an entry form by phoning the Council on 03 941 8999

The Alpine Presbytery Newsletter is produced weekly, and a copy is on the notice board in the foyer. Speak to Gail if you would like to subscribe to receive it directly.

Church Rosters	This week: 11th December	Next week: 18th December
Door Duty	Peter & Tric Nelson, Ann Jennings	Warren Campbell, Annette McAdam, Jill McAra
Morning Tea & Coffee	Elizabeth Taggart, Cecile Pierce	Peter & Tric Nelson
Bible Reading	(Nativity service)	(Christmas Music Service)
Candle Lighting	The Lee family	The Pothen Chacko Family
Food Trolley	Helen Matthews	David Troughton
Money Counting (Monday)	Bruce McAlister	Rouie Swan

Leading Worship over the next few weeks:

18 December	Christmas Music Service
24 December	Christmas Eve: David Coster
25 December	Christmas Day: Hamish Galloway
1 January	Anne Shave
8 January	David Coster



Christmas in Cashmere



SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Sunday 18th December @ 10am

Beautiful Christmas music, ancient and modern.

Healing Service @ 11.30am

COMMUNITY CAROLS

Sunday 18th December @ 6pm *Community carols in the open air.*

An event for all ages, with music from the Steadfast Band and a sausage sizzle.

Bring rugs and a picnic. (In the church if wet)

CHRISTMAS EVE: Saturday 24th December

Light a Candle in Remembrance

The church will be open during the day for personal prayer, remembrance & contemplation

Midnight Watch Candlelight Service

Commencing at 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS MORNING: Sunday 25th December @ 9.30am

All-age family friendly celebration