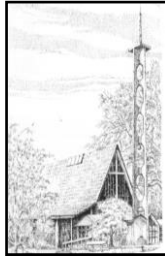


St Columba's Church Havelock North

15 December 2019

Advent 3



Welcome to St Columba's

Rev Wayne Toleafoa is leading the service this morning.
Minister's Elder is Nicholas Tabi Amponsah
Duty Manager is Rex Bartlett
Organist is Jean Jarvis
Floral artist is Judi Schnell

Visitors are invited to sign the Visitors Book in the Foyer.

*Advent means 'coming'. A season of four Sundays before Christmas when the church recalls the hope and expectancy surrounding the coming of Christ.
Colour: Purple, for 'penitence' in preparation for Christ's coming.*

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

INTROIT:

Please stand as the Holy Bible is carried into the church.

'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty' WOV 65
Tune (ii) Tersanctus

GREETING AND WELCOME:

OUR NOTICES:

THEME: Advent 3

*The congregation is invited to say together words printed in **bold type**.*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Blessing upon blessing has been showered upon us by God.

The lame shall walk; the blind shall see; the deaf shall hear.

There will be hope peace and love in God's land.

Be of good courage. Behold! God is blessing and redeeming us!

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT– The Candle of Love:

Today we light three candles. The first is the candle of Hope, reminding us to watch and wait for what God is about to do. [*Light the first candle*]

The second candle is the candle of Peace, enabling us to look at our lives, to get rid of all the things that keep us from God, to change our ways and live as God would have us live. [*The second candle is lighted*]

The third candle is the candle of Love, through which we behold the love and mercy of God in the birth of the holy child, and in his death on the cross. God is with us. [*The third candle is lighted*]

Come, see the lights. **Let their brightness fill you.**

Come, feel the warmth of the lights. **Let them give you comfort.**

Come, draw near to the lights, **for God is breaking through to you.**

Come, rejoice in the lights, **for God is with us!**

WE SING: 'Hope is a candle' CH4 284 (Verses 1-3)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Children and young people are invited to meet Elma in the foyer.

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and we see the things we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with glib and ready answers, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God's beloved world. Rejoice in this good news, for it is given especially to you. **Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us forgive one another and pass on a sign of peace to those around us.

‘The peace of Christ be with you’, or, ‘Peace be with you’.

‘And also with you’.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Lord, we cannot live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the heart of God. Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS: *Reader: Elma Pienaar*

First reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10 (page 578)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second reading: James 5: 7-10 (page 982)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

WE SING: Carol our Christmas AA 9

Music © Colin Gibson Words © Shirley Erena Murray
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BIBLE READING: *Reader: Rev Wayne Toleafoa*

Mathew 11: 2-11 (page 792)

This is the gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

SERMON: Advent 3.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

WE SING: ‘Love came down at Christmas CH4 316

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CALL TO OFFERING: Psalm 116- selected verses

What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation. I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

DEDICATION:

Gracious God, as we offer our treasure and hearts to you, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community, to all in need of your gifts and your presence in their lives. Through Jesus Christ who makes us one with you and with one another. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *Led by Nicholas Tabi Amponsah*

To the words: Lord, in your mercy

Response: **Hear our prayer**

Our Lord’s Prayer: *(In your own language)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day 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 forever. Amen.

WE SING: ‘Hark the glad sound’ CH4 277

FINAL BLESSING:

May the love of God fill you

until you overflow with joy.

May the coming of the Christ Child free you

to live in an upside-down world.

May the Holy Spirit empower you

to work for the reign of God on earth.

At Christmas and throughout the year,

may you be inspired to share the good news of God’s vision of peace and love.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

We go in the name of Christ.

SUNG THREE-FOLD ‘AMEN’

EXIT OF THE HOLY BIBLE: *Please stand as the Bible is carried from the church.*

Acknowledgements:

Weekly Worship from Church of Scotland Resource (2019); Ministry Matters – United Methodist Church, USA (2019).

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2019

CALENDAR:

Sunday 22 10.00am Sunday Service

MINI MARKET:

- No jars until the new year please!
- Thank you for your ongoing support.

MAINTENANCE: If you notice something that needs attention in and around the church, please send an email to Louis Pienaar or ring David Schnell or leave a message in the office. (877 8096)

SINGING GROUP: On behalf of a few of our past choir members from St Columba's, I am trying to recruit someone to lead us in another choir/singing group. This is with the blessing of Rev Wayne Toleafoa. We would dearly love to revive this again as it was a big part of our lives, and we have some fabulous music packed away. If you are able to help, please get in touch with Rev Wayne or Chris Hinton.

Napier Civic Choir and Hawke's Bay Orchestra concert weekend on 13, 14 and 15 December. Information on the notice board in the foyer.

Memorial Christmas service: Join us to remember your loved ones at our annual Christmas Remembrance Service at Crestwood on Wednesday 18 December at 6.00 pm.

Hawkes Bay Ecumenical Hospital Chaplaincy:

- Remembrance service on Friday 20 December at 10.00 am in the courtyard behind the chapel.
- Christmas day chapel service: We need a few people to help bring patients to the chapel on Christmas Day. If you can help, please phone 878 8109 ext 2611 and leave a message.

Deco Bay Brass presents Carols by candlelight on Sunday 22 December at 6.00 pm in the Napier Botanical Gardens. Entry: free. Candles, coffee, glow sticks and song sheets for sale. Bring a picnic tea.




Sam and Janet Browne do not have a landline phone number anymore. Please contact them on their cell phones.

ROSTER: Sunday 22 December 2019

Minister's Elder: Elma Pienaar
Elders: Anne Heesterman, Stephen Randal, Nicholas Tabi Amponsah
Door duty: Graeme Mueller, Colleen Parker, John Heesterman, Barbara Randal
Organist: Ngaire Anderson
Sound: Arthur Peake
Bible reading: Agyeiwaa & Amponsaa T Amponsah
Morning tea: Jill Thompson, Alan Wildbore, Ngaire Holford, Ian Holford
Children: Anne Keown
Flower arrangements: Vivian Taylor

LECTIONARY READINGS:

SUNDAY 22 December 2019

 Is 7: 10-16	 Ps 80: 1-7, 17-19
 Rom 1: 1-7	 Mt 1: 18-25

ROSTER: Christmas Day 2019

Minister's Elder: Janet Browne
Elders: Any volunteer elders available
Door duty: Any volunteer managers available
Organist: Jean Jarvis
Sound: Louis Pienaar
Bible reading: Noel Congdon
Morning tea: **No morning tea**
Children: Elma Pienaar
Flower arrangements: Vivian Taylor

LECTIONARY READINGS:

WEDNESDAY 25 December 2019

 Is 52: 7-10	 Ps 98
 Heb 1: 1-4 (5-12)	 Jn 1: 1-14

The church office will be closed from Monday 23 December to Friday 17 January 2020.

Rev Wayne Toleafoa is on leave from Boxing Day to Monday 13 January 2020.

In case of an emergency please contact the Church Council Co-ordinator, Wayne Rewcastle (877 5754) or the Office Administrator, Elma Pienaar (021 02 773099), or leave a message on the office answerphone (877 8096).