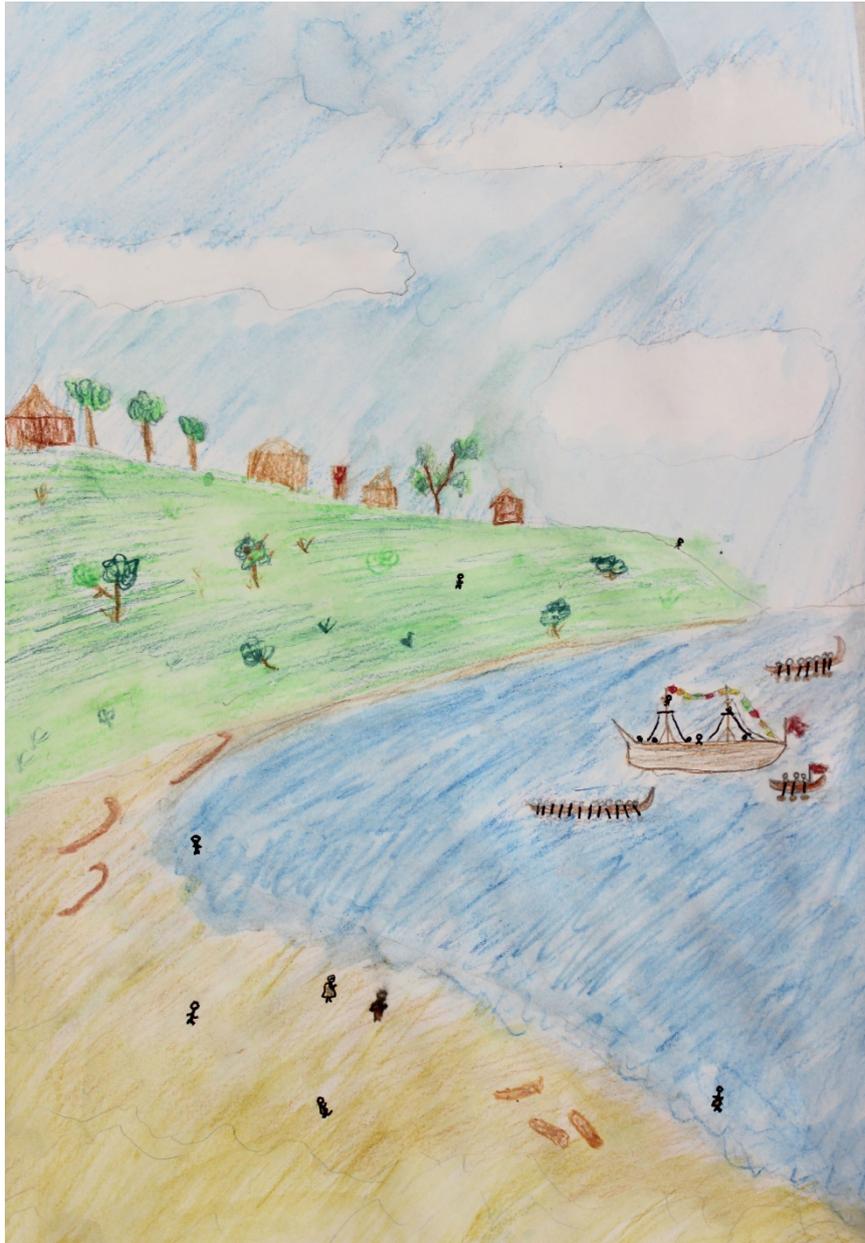


A Very Special Christmas

Celebrating the Birth of Christ at the Birth Place of Christianity in Aotearoa New Zealand



Artwork by Ella Riley, Year 5 student, Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland

**A Bicentenary Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving
Oihi, Christmas Day 2014**

“Kia whai kororia te Atua i runga rawa, kia mau te rongo ki runga ki te whenua, me te whakaaro pai ki nga tangata.”

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards all”

- Luke 2:14

We welcome you to Oihi as we celebrate the bicentenary of the service of worship which inaugurated the first Christian mission in Aotearoa New Zealand. On this day in 1814, Ruatara welcomed Samuel Marsden to this place, and the Gospel was proclaimed to Maori gathered here.

Today’s service has been planned by a group representing many of the churches, and is led by an ecumenical group of church leaders from across the country. We are glad that you are here today to join us in celebrating that event.

Please feel welcome to stay after the service and walk around the site. Enjoy a picnic lunch. Please remember to take all your belongings and any rubbish with you at the end of the day.

The service is being broadcast live by TVNZ. To maximise their access to signal, please turn cell phones to “flight mode” during the service.

You are welcome to take photos or use handheld video cameras but we ask that tripods or other equipment are not set up. A recording of the service will be available for purchase in the New Year.

Nau mai, haere mai.

The Gathering

The Most Reverend Brown Turei welcomes the people and reads the Sentence.

Behold I bring you good news of great joy; for to you is born in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

- Luke 2:10,11

Remembering Christmas 1814

Extracts will be read in three parts from The Reverend Samuel Marsden’s recollection of the 1814 Christmas service in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Part 1 - The Reverend Dr Richard Waugh

The National Anthem

E Ihowa Atua
O ngā iwi mātou rā,
āta whakarongo na;
Me aroha noa.
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau tō atawhai;
Manaakitia mai
Aotearoa.

God of nations at thy feet
in the bonds of love we meet.
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.

Part 2 - Dr Adrienne Puckey

Hymn

1.

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth
tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

2.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

3.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name
always,
For it is seemly so to do.

4.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

5.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God Whom Heaven and earth adore,
From us and from the angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Text: William Kethe
Louis Bourgeois

Tune: Old 100th,

Part 3 - Mr Glyn Carpenter

Hymn

1.
Not on a snowy night
By star or candlelight
Nor by an angel band
There came to our dear land

2.
But on a summer day
Within a quiet bay
The Maori people heard
The great and glorious word

Chorus

Te Harinui

Te Harinui

Te Harinui

Glad tidings of great joy

3.
The people gathered round
Upon the grassy ground
And heard the preacher say
I bring to you this day

4.
Now in this blessed land
United heart and hand
We praise the glorious birth
And sing to all the earth

Text and Tune: Willow Macky (1921-2006)

The Ministry of the Word

Isaiah 52:7-10 *The Reverend Tovia Aumua*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hymn

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

3.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

4.

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!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), 1868

Luke 2:1-16 **Associate Professor Mānuka Hēnare** (reading first in Te Reo Maori)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Kauwhau / Sermon – *The Most Reverend Philip Richardson*

Waiata – sung by the service leaders

Thanksgivings and Intercessions

Major Stephen Jarvis, Pastor Mike Griffiths, Pastor Iliafi Esera, The Reverend Mark Whitfield, & The Reverend David Moko will offer prayers on various topics, each being followed by the response:

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer, as follows:

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki, ka inoi tatou

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi

Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.

Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai

ki runga ki te whenua,

kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

Hōmai ki a mātou āiane

he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

Murua ō mātou hara,

Me mātou hoki e muru nei

i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a

mātou.

Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia

whakawaia;

Engari whakaorangia mātou i te

kino:

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te

kaha,

me te korōria, Āke āke āke.

Āmine.

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

Give us today 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 for

ever. Amen.

Hymn

1.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hill and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Antioch

Tune:

An Act of Corporate Recommitment to Christ and Invitation to Faith

The text of this statement comes from 'A discussion paper for the Gospel Bicentenary, Aotearoa New Zealand' and was agreed by an ecumenical group of church leaders.

God's call through Christ is to all people. The work of Ruatara and Samuel Marsden was one of invitation and welcome. Today that invitation and welcome is as real as ever. You may not have made a formal commitment to Christ before, but you are welcome to join with Christians now to affirm your trust in Jesus.

The Right Reverend Andrew Norton will introduce the act of recommitment

Archdeacon Carole Hughes

What is your faith?

All **I believe and trust in God the Father, maker and sustainer of all things; and in God the Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ; and in God the Holy Spirit, giver of life and truth. This is my faith.**

Leader Christians are called to a way of life which reflects the love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ.
Will you commit yourself to this life?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you forgive others as you are forgiven?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you seek to love your neighbour as yourself, and strive for peace and justice?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Leader With the whole Church will you proclaim by word and action the Good News of God in Christ?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Concluding Prayer The Right Reverend Te Kitohi Pikaahu

E te Atua o te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, me enei motu, o te iwi Maori, to iwi Pakeha, me ratou katoa a noho nei i tenei wahi. Ka whakamoemiti, ka whakawhetai ki a koe mo tenei whenua o matou; mo nga mea pai katoa kua whiwhi tahi nei matou. Whakanuia to matou aroha tetahi ki tetahi, whakakahangia to matou whai i te tika kia kotahi ai matou i runga i te whakaaro kotahi. Kua hanga matou a koe hei toto kotahi; i raro i tenei whakaaro kotahi: ko Ihu Karaiti nei to matou Ariki. **Amine**

God of the southern sea and of these islands, of Maori, Pakeha, and of all who dwell in our land; we give you thanks and praise for our country, and for what we have achieved together. Increase our trust in one another; strengthen our quest for justice, and bring us to unity and a common purpose. You have made us of one blood; make us also of one mind. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**God of our nation, you have called us to care for one another;
cleanse our eyes to see each other clearly;
open our hearts to know our own mistakes;
build in us respect for each other's taonga;
help us to do justice to one another
and to hope together.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.**

The Peace

*The Most Reverend Winston Halapua prays Christ's peace on the
Congregation*

The Peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you.

The whole congregation are invited to exchange a sign of peace

Hymn

1.
O Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

2.
God of God,
light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;
Refrain

3.
See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
Refrain

4.
Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God in the Highest;
Refrain

5.
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

**Concluding Prayers of Thanksgiving – *The Right Reverend Ross Bay &
The Right Reverend Te Kitohi Pikaahu***

Creator of all, you chose the Ngapuhi Chief, Ruatara,
to prepare a way for the Christian missionaries to Aotearoa;
may the gateway that he opened for the Gospel
encourage us to look for every means
by which your word may be proclaimed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gracious and eternal God, you called Samuel Marsden
to lead the first mission to the Maori people;

grant that, following in his footsteps,
we may bring to this land the good news
of great joy in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen

**Loving God, you have called your church to bear witness
that in Christ you are reconciling all people to yourself;
help us to proclaim your love in word and deed,
so that all may grasp the hope that is in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Almighty God, you gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him,
and be born of the Virgin Mary; grant that we, who have been born again and
made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy
Spirit; through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen**

**Holy and ever-living God,
by your power we are created
and by your love we are redeemed;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live each day in love to one another and to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

The Dismissal

The Most Reverend Brown Turei blesses the Congregation.

Christ, who by his incarnation, gathered into one all things earthly and
heavenly, fill you with joy and peace and the blessing of God our Creator,
Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. **Amen.**

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Kororia ki te
Atua!**

Hymn

1.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

2.

Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as one with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

3.

Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

Text: Charles Wesley (adapted)

Mendelssohn

Tune: F

Hymn

1.

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our kind hath bought. *Refrain*

Words: traditional English carol, seventeenth century

Churches involved in leading the Bicentenary Service

The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia - Te Hahi Mihinare ki Aotearoa, ki Niu Tireni, Ki Nga Moutere of te Moana Nui a Kiwa

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson – Primate and Bishop of Taranaki
The Most Reverend Brown Turei – Primate and Pihopa of Te Tairāwhiti
The Most Reverend Dr Winston Halapua – Primate and Bishop of Polynesia
The Right Reverend Te Kitohi Pikaahu – Pihopa of Tai Tokerau
The Right Reverend Ross Bay – Bishop of Auckland
The Venerable Carole Hughes – Archdeacon of Auckland
Dr Adrienne Puckey – Member of Bicentenary Planning Group

The Methodist Church of New Zealand – Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa The Reverend Tovia Aumua – President

The Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand – Te Hahi Katorika ki Aotearoa Associate Professor Mānuka Hēnare

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand The Reverend Dr Richard Waugh – National Superintendent

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand The Right Reverend Andrew Norton – Moderator of the General Assembly

The Lutheran Church of New Zealand – Te Hahi Rutana o Aotearoa The Reverend Mark Whitfield – Bishop

Elim Church of New Zealand Pastor Mike Griffiths – National Leader

Assemblies of God in New Zealand Pastor Iliafi Esera – General Superintendent

Baptist Churches of New Zealand The Reverend David Moko – Kaihautu, Baptist Maori Ministries

Salvation Army New Zealand Major Stephen Jarvis – Northern Division Commander

New Zealand Christian Network Mr Glyn Carpenter – National Director



Artwork by Phoebe O'Neill, Year 5 student, Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland

Members of the Bicentenary Ecumenical Planning Group

Anglican Church Bishop Ross Bay, Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu, Dr Adrienne Puckey and Rev Michael Hughes;

Baptist Church Rev David Moko; Catholic Church Ms Adriana Janus; Methodist Church Rev Dr Trevor Hoggard and

Rev Andrew Gamman; Presbyterian Church Rev Ray Coster and Rev Andrew Norton;
Vision Network of NZ Mr Glyn Carpenter; Wesleyan Methodist Church Rev Dr Richard Waugh;

Secretary Mrs Lesley Anderson Communications Officer Rev Jayson Rhodes

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