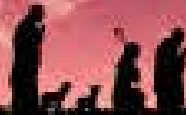


CATHEDRAL EXTRA



CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL 2018



Due to an issue with our database, we have been unable to exclude electronic recipients from our physical mail-out. We apologise if you receive two copies.

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FROM THE DEAN ...

Love comes down from Heaven

We are being shown something profoundly precious when we gather to celebrate Christmas. It is that human life is profoundly sacred, so much so that God comes to us in human form to speak to us on our level and in our language. The Christian faith proclaims that being human is not about an arrogant other-worldliness that sets us above other people or as lords over creation. It tells us that human beings in their fragility and humility can be full of God; very holy, very precious. In the message of the birth of Christ about which the angels sing and shepherds rush to adore, we see that all life is held in God and surrounded by God, and that God can reach out to us at any time and in any place, especially to the places engulfed in the darkness of suffering and pain.

When the heavens are opened on that first Christmas night, what is disclosed? God: revealed in the flesh; God, full of grace and truth. We see the fragility and vulnerability of human existence in the new-born baby. We see also poverty, cold, and darkness. We see, too, the shepherds outside in the fields. They are astonished to hear the music of heaven and the radiance of God all about them. Our closest contact

with the divine radiance is offered in the simplest way, in the midst of the ordinariness of our life. And the point of contact with this divine life, is a baby.

When we look toward that holy Child, we see only Love; Love that is offered freely and is not manipulative or controlling. It is Love that is simply present, that we can choose to receive and to adore, or not. It is Love that has come to win us over, to draw us to the Father. It is the same Love that moves the stars and stirs our hearts. It is a Love that invites our total allegiance. This Love also helps us see our humanity from a fresh angle; it is fragile, dependant, but more holy than we could ever have imagined. It tells us that our own very being comes from the heart of God and is the result of the creative outpouring of Love who looks upon all that has been made and pronounced it to be very good.

“Come, Holy One, come, my Redeemer; come Lord Jesus, and be born in me, live in me, grown in me, until my life is transformed by your life and I seek only to know your love and make your love known. Amen.”

May you and yours have a holy and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Lawrence Kimberley



Christmas at the Transitional Cathedral

Sunday 2 December

~ The First Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Choral Eucharist
with the lighting of the
Christmas Tree

Music: The Cathedral Choir

7:30pm Advent Carol Service

Music: The Cathedral Choir

Sunday 9 December

~ The Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Choral Eucharist

Music: The Cathedral Choir

2.00pm Cathedral Singers and
Cathedral Brass Christmas
Concert

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Music: The Cathedral Choir

Monday 10 December

6.30pm The Cathedral
Grammar School Carol Service

Saturday 15 December

7.00pm "Deck the Halls"

*A Christmas celebration with
violinist Fiona Pears and the
Cathedral Choristers*

Sunday 16 December

~ The Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Choral Eucharist

Music: The Cathedral Choir

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Music: The Cathedral Choir

Wednesday 19 December

12.30pm Carol Recital by the
Cathedral Choristers

6.00pm City Mission Carol
Service

Friday 21 December

12noon Cathedral Choristers'
Carol Recital at the Bridge of
Remembrance

3:00pm The Children's Nativity
Service with Animals

Sunday 23 December ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Choral Eucharist

Music: The Cathedral Choir

7:30pm Festival of Nine
Lessons and Carols

Music: The Cathedral Choir

Monday 24 December

The Eve and Vigil of Christmas

6:00pm Christmas Recital

Music: The Cathedral Choir

10:15pm Carol Singing by
candlelight

11:00pm The Midnight Mass

Music: The Cathedral Choir

Tuesday 25 December

Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Eucharist
with Carols

10:00am Festival Eucharist

Music: The Cathedral Choir

5:00pm Festal Evensong

*Music: The Gentlemen of the
Cathedral Choir*

Sunday 30 December

The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Sung Eucharist

5:00pm Sung Evensong

*You are cordially invited to attend
any of our Christmas Services*

Friday 21 December

3:00pm The Children's Nativity Service with Animals

Sunday 23 December - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Choral Eucharist

Music: The Cathedral Choir

7:30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carol

Music: The Cathedral Choir

Monday 24 December - The Eve and Vigil of Christmas

6:00pm Christmas Recital

Music: The Cathedral Choir

10:15pm Carol Singing in the Cathedral

11:00pm The Midnight Mass

Music: The Cathedral Choir

Tuesday 25 December - Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Eucharist with Carols

10:00am Festival Eucharist

Music: The Cathedral Choir

3:00pm Festal Evensong

Music: The Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir

CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
TRANSITIONAL





Cathedral Choristers'

Carol Recitals



**Tuesday 18 December at 5:30
at The Piano**

**Wednesday 19 December at 12:30
in the Transitional Cathedral**

**Thursday 20 December at 12:30
at Ballantynes**

**Friday 21 December at 12:00
at The Bridge of Remembrance**





Children's

Christmas Service with animals

**The Christmas story for children
told with drama and live animals!
All welcome**

**Friday 21 December
at 3.00pm**

CHRISTCHURCH
CATHEDRAL
TRANSITIONAL



Christmas Carol Recital by the Cathedral Choir

**Christmas Eve
6.00pm**

Free entry



CHRISTCHURCH
CATHEDRAL
TRANSITIONAL

The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols



Sunday 23 December at 7.30pm



CHRISTCHURCH
TRANSITIONAL
CATHEDRAL

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES ...

A Sermon preached at the Service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 28 October attended by members of the various groups involved in the reinstatement of the Cathedral in the Square.

Kia ora tatou katoa. E mihi ana ki a koutou kua karangatia nei hei tote, hei maramatanga mo te ao, i roto i to koutou tohinga.

Welcome to the Transitional Cathedral. Welcome to this house of prayer. May the Spirit of Christ enable us to be salt of the earth and bearers of Christ's light in the world.

I wish to acknowledge those who have gathered here. I am delighted that your Dean and Chapter have collaborated with the Christchurch Cathedral Reinstatement Trust to extend the invitation to everyone tonight, and I acknowledge the chair Peter Guthrey, Trustees of the Reinstatement Trust and the Executive Director, Victoria Henstock. I also acknowledge our Mayor, Lianne Dalziel (who was planning to be here but sends a belated apology tonight), and members of Parliament (Nicky Wagner and Duncan Webb). Welcome to the Directors of Christchurch Cathedral Reinstatement Limited, to Justin Murray and your team. Welcome to members of the Greater Christchurch Buildings Trust, to Philip Burdon and all associated with that Trust. I am glad at last, to be welcoming the Canon Almoners who can make it tonight. And I acknowledge my own colleagues in ministry: Bishop Elect Peter Carrell, members of Chapter, members of the Church Property Trustees, and the wider Cathedral community. And of course, welcome to all those who just thought they were turning up to an ordinary Cathedral Evensong. We are glad that you are here too. Welcome, welcome, thrice welcome.

Tonight, is significant, and it fills me with joy, because this is the first time all

the various stakeholders in the future of the Cathedral in the Square have gathered together under one roof since the earthquakes. It is significant that the first thing we are doing together is offering thanks and praise to God in this Evensong. As the Dean, I want to say the Good News of the Gospel is that in God there is always room for a fresh start, for new hope, for reconciliation, for restoration. Many of us are here tonight



to celebrate the beginning of the project to reinstate a Cathedral building. But the reinstatement is much more than sorting out the bricks and mortar. Its about bringing hope into our city. Its about bringing people together to work on a common vision. It is about restoring the spiritual heart of our City.

My predecessor, Dean Lynda Patterson, had this to say about Cathedrals. "Cathedrals are by nature multi-dimensional. They are places of spiritual exuberance and quiet beauty, expressions of visions that transcend human knowing, meeting places for the spirit, libraries of stories, cornucopias of artistic achievement. They are places where worship takes place in countless forms, music pours forth in daily

offerings of resonant beauty – where spiritual growth and education deepen the mind and spirit, and where people meet in search of common ground and a common good." (end quote)

We are all part of this journey now, of bringing this vision back to life in Cathedral Square.

Having said all that, the Christian scriptures contain quite a variety of voices about grand temples and houses of God. The first reading tonight tells the story of Jacob's dream of a stairway to heaven. This story takes place in the outdoors, in the Cathedral of God's creation.

Jacob's world is not a safe one. We pick up the story when his life is in a bit of a mess; he is on the run from his older twin brother and his life is littered with broken relationships. The reason he has left his family and his home is because he stole his brother's birth right. In other words, he's a con artist, who by an act of trickery we would call fraud, convinced his father to sign over the family inheritance to himself, instead of his brother, who was first in line. Jacob had to make a fast getaway or face certain death. We meet up with him when he is staying with relatives in another country trying to start over and rebuild his life. Which means that Jacob's world is a world of terror, unresolved guilt, and loneliness.

The hopeful part of this story is that God has not given up on Jacob and left him for dead. God comes to Jacob in a dream and offers Good News of an alternative future. The news is that the distance between heaven and earth is tissue thin, so much so that traffic can move from one to the other. Our reading describes a ladder, but the object is better thought of as a ramp, maybe an escalator, between heaven and earth. The angels are moving down from heaven and back up to heaven. The point is: we are not left to our own devices. Heaven

is not a remote place far away. Heaven and earth are closely entwined. Whereas Jacob thought he was travelling alone and just surviving, knowing he's been a recalcitrant rat-bag, the angels tell him that God has never given up on him. Instead, God is here, offering the promise of a new start and an alternative future.

Jacob dreams that the angels are ascending and descending between heaven and earth. They are not winged creatures. They are God's royal messengers. They are bearers of the promise of God, which is now coming alive and is at work. God is showing up. And God has something clear to say. "I am with you. I will accompany you. I will keep you." In other words, I will guarantee your life, and the lives of all who are exposed and defenceless. And I will bring you home. Your time of displacement will come to an end, good news for all who are refugees or who experience disconnectedness and displacement. Three amazing messages: God will accompany. God will protect and uphold. God will bring about a homecoming. This is a full complement of Good News, laden with hope, guaranteed by the faithfulness and steadfast love of God himself.

When he wakes from this dream, Jacob is faced with a choice. He can say: that was just a dream and carry on as before; or he can say: I have been with the angels and heard the voice of God. Jacob chooses the latter. He decides to trust the dream and the message of the angels. He decides that the world of the dream is more convincing than his previous world of fear and guilt. He resolves to embrace the promise that the kingdom of God is at hand. He begins to reshape his existence, to embrace the goodness of God and the new world of promise.

The fund raisers here tonight will note the fact the Jacob resolves to give one tenth of his income to God. If anyone

wants to do the same, don't go away without telling me; I've got the forms! Crucially for our purposes tonight, Jacob sets the site of the dream aside as a holy place, setting up a pillar and pouring oil over the top of it, making it a holy place for God, calling it Bethel, house of God. Isn't that what Cathedral spaces are about? They are places where people have brought their shattered dreams to God looking for new hope. They are places where the grief and loss of a community can be gathered up and lamented. They are places where God inspires alternative visions of the world, places where friends and foreigners, neighbours and strangers come together, where God's eternal self-giving love is tasted and known; where people can come in search for meaning, fresh vision and new understandings. This is what God is calling our Cathedral to be.

But there is another voice in the scripture as well. In the hands of the biblical writers, the language about grand spiritual houses and temples moves from bricks and mortar, and buildings, to people. The full-blown version of that is when Jesus declares that he himself is the foundation stone of a spiritual temple, one not made of stone, but one in which the people of God are the temple, the place where the glory of God chooses to dwell. We are the spiritual stones, a community, a holy nation, God's own people. When Jesus walked on this earth he created spaces where the lost, the vulnerable, the outsider would be welcomed and where they would be at home. In the early Church that meant tearing down the walls of division between people of different ethnicities, between the rich and the poor, between men and women, so that in this community love would abound. That is what our Cathedrals are for. Cathedrals are holy spaces in which God gathers a community of people, who desire to make a space where heaven

touches the earth, where everything invites us to know God, who is only love.

May God grant us the vision, the faith, and gifts we need, and the grace to work together to make our Cathedral in the Square a doorway to heaven, and a spiritual home that stands as a living sign of the love and compassion of God.

Dean Lawrence Kimberley

Regular Worship at the Transitional Cathedral

SUNDAYS

8.00am Holy Eucharist
10.00am Choral Eucharist
5.00pm Choral Evensong

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist at 12.05pm

Monday Midday Prayer
Tuesday (NZPB, & prayers for healing),
Wednesday (Celtic tradition),
Thursday (in te reo Maori),
Friday (NZPB)
Saturday Midday Prayer

Choral Evensong at 5.30pm

(during school terms):
Tuesday & Wednesday
(with the full Choir);
Thursday
(with the gentlemen of the Choir)
Choral Evensong at 4.30pm
(during school terms):
Friday (with the choristers of the
Cathedral Choir)

Weekday services of Choral Evensong
conclude for the year on Thursday 13
December and resume on Wednesday
30 January at 5.30pm..