



## **Welcome to Worship**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2021**

**Christmas Day Celebration**

A Congregation of Grace Presbyterian  
Church of New Zealand



# Welcome to Shore Presbyterian Church

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***"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because  
He has come and has redeemed his people."***

## **Call to Worship** Isaiah 52:7-10<sup>1</sup>

- <sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
<sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup> 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.

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Songs of Adoration<sup>2</sup> & Praise** *Joy to the World!*

Words: Isaac Watts, *The Psalms of David* 1719

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

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<sup>1</sup> All passages of Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.

<sup>2</sup> Adoration: the act of paying honour, as to a divine being; worship; reverent homage; fervent and devoted love.

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

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
*Far as the curse is found,*  
*Far as the curse is found,*  
*Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

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.*

### **Scripture reading** *Luke 2:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

## **Scripture reading** *Luke 2:8-21*

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## **Song of preparation for hearing God’s Word**

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Author: Phillip Brooks

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.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

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!

**Christmas Message** Luke 2:10 *“Reason for Joy!”*

## **Closing Song** O Holy Night!

Words: Placide Cappeau, 1843, Translated from French to English by John S. Dwight, 1855.

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our friend  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us Praise His Holy name  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

## **BENEDICTION** Together...

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen**

2 Corinthians 13:14

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***We pray that, through the rest and refreshment of this  
Christmas and holiday season, you may grow in the  
knowledge of the Lord Jesus, Whom to know is eternal life.***

***Looking forward to gathering, worshipping,  
growing and serving together in the New Year***

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