



30 December 2018  
Christmas 1

**Minister:** Rev Dr Robyn McPhail  
**Musicians:** Marie Cannon (KK) Clyde Foster (Kaeo)  
**Readers:** Ros Simpson (KK) tba (Kaeo)

*Here each Sunday we pray God's blessing over our buildings: thanks for the good that has happened through the week and cleansing for anything troublesome. May the Spirit touch all who come into our church home.*



Being family, we watch out for, and care for, one another.

### Settling in

He who knows all the answers has not been asked all the questions.

Confucius

### Gathering with all the Saints

Now that the mad rush is over, O centre of stillness and peace, we thank you that you are still God-with-us. As we face the year ahead, help us to accept the difficult parts of our lives; help us to make the changes we must make; bring us to new places of openness and love toward you and the people and world around us; help us to overcome the fears which keep us from fullness of life.

WE THANK YOU FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOR YOUR GRACE IN JESUS CHRIST.  
 HELP US TO BE SIGNS OF YOUR COMPASSION, HOPE, JOY, AND UNITY IN THIS WORLD YOU LOVE, IN JESUS OUR CHRIST. AMEN.

**Carol** *Once in royal David's city*

**Story:** *Jed and Roy McCoy* [lostsheep.com.au](http://lostsheep.com.au)

**Prayer** *A prayer by Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy*

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but you.  
 Great and wonderful are your works, wondrous are your ways.  
 Thank you for the many splendored variety of your creation.  
 Thank you for the many ways we affirm your presence and purpose,  
 Thank you for the freedom to do so.  
 Forgive our violation of your creation.  
 Forgive our violence toward each other.  
 We stand in awe and gratitude at your persistent love  
 for each and all of your children:  
 Christian, Jew, Muslim,  
 as well as those with other faiths.  
 Grant to all our leaders attributes of the strong;  
 mutual respect in word and deed,  
 restraint in the exercise of power,  
 and the will for peace with justice, for all.  
 Eternal God, creator of the universe, there is no God but you. Amen.

## Symbol of God's Presence

Hymn [KK] *Follow the light* [Ros' choice]

[KAEO] *As with gladness* [Clyde's choice]

## Clarifying our Purpose

### Conversation with the Word

I'm not young enough to know everything

J.M. Barrie

Once in royal David's city: as you sang, what did you think about?

Think now about the child Jesus, and how he is presented to us by the Bible as totally human and totally God-with-us. In particular, we're looking at how Luke's gospel portrays this.

### Reading and Reflection Luke 2:41-52

- How do you imagine Jesus as a child?
- To what (or whom) do you pay the most attention?
- What are "the things that really matter" that you want to explore in a faith community?

It seems to be part of the human condition, in navigating the difficult passage from childhood to adulthood, to experience a tension between family and "the world out there," between safe nurture and broader horizons, between a circle of care and a strong sense of self.

When do parents think one way, and children begin to think another? Just about the age that Jesus was when he was lost and found in the temple by a distraught Joseph and Mary.

And most of the time, those adolescents are as self-assured and unflappable as Jesus was when he was finally found. How could Jesus, being fully human as well as fully divine, make the passage from childhood through adolescence (that delightful stage) to full adulthood without experiencing some kind of transitional tension?

Kate Matthews, [www.ucc.org/weekly\\_seeds](http://www.ucc.org/weekly_seeds)

How do you imagine Jesus as a child?

The ordinariness of this family captures our attention. The frantic parents. Not remiss really, as they travelled in an extended family community, so they knew he'd be with family members. Where else would a middle-eastern peasant child be? And he was. Just not the family they were thinking of, so they were frantic. And annoyed.

Luke gets us sensing that Mary knows there's something big here. She and Joseph don't understand what their boy says, but like she was after the encounter with the shepherds she's left pondering this in her heart. It isn't hard then to imagine what she was thinking about through the years that followed, working away at her weaving or cleaning or cooking.

BTW, as with the birth narrative Luke gives us earlier in the chapter, it wasn't unusual in the ancient world for "coming-of-age" stories showing miraculous talents to be told about famous people. But this isn't a miracle story like the others. Instead we get a quiet and impressive introduction to the real things that matter –

Conversation

Being at home with holiness

Both the humanness and Godness are in the fact he's found engrossed in conversation with the teachers:

that he is listening v.46

that he is asking questions v.46

that he is taking on board what he hears and making it his own v.47 (*they were amazed at his understanding and his answers*)

And both the humanness and Godness are in the fact that God's house is where he feels at home.

Humanness and Godness.

For what is more human than the importance of feeling and being at home. What is more God than inquiring and searching and listening and truly conversing together as people of on the journey of the Spirit.

Do we simply read the Bible the same way we might have read it as children (alas, as so many "adult Christians" do today), or are we continuing to grow into an informed, inquisitive, open--and critical--approach to Scripture, using the tools scholars have given us and seeking the guidance of the Spirit of the God who speaks to us today, in our own setting? (As Marcus Borg said, "taking the Bible seriously, not literally"?)

Kate Matthews

Are we open to what questions might be stirring in us? Are we open to questions raised by reading the Bible alongside reading news stories and internet postings?

Can we brave and hear the answers that come from "God-with-us"? Can we hear them and take them on board?

Or put it simply this way:

What do you want to pay more attention to this week, indeed, this coming year?

## Conversations around the Table

**Hymn** *Who would think (God surprises earth with heaven)*

God did not enter the world of our nostalgic, silent-night, snow-blanketed, peace-on-earth, suspended reality of Christmas. God slipped into the vulnerability of skin and entered our violent and disturbing world.

Nadia Bolz-Weber

### The World: Our Prayers

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine

#### A Prayer for Jerusalem

O God of Sarah and Abraham,  
our tears are mixed with yours,  
weeping for the cities in the world.



*Kyrie eleison. Seigneur, aie pitié de nous.*

We weep for the holy cities and especially for Jerusalem:  
where brothers and sisters kill each other,  
where hatred feeds and nourishes anger,  
where animosity blinds mercy,  
where religions divide,  
as children learn to hate and the elderly nurse old grudges.

WE SEE, AND WE GRIEVE;

AND YET WE HAVE NOT LOVED THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE. SO WE PRAY:



*Kyrie eleison. Seigneur, aie pitié de nous.*

WE WEEP FOR ALL CITIES, AND FOR JERUSALEM.

WE SEE AND WE GRIEVE;

AND YET WE HAVE NOT LEARNED THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE. SO WE PRAY:



*Kyrie eleison. Seigneur, aie pitié de nous.*

With Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, we pray:

TEACH US TO WALK THE WAY THAT LEADS TO LIFE.

TRANSFORM OUR GRIEF INTO DETERMINATION,

OUR TEARS INTO ACTION,

AND OUR ACTS INTO A JUST PEACE.  
AMEN.

From "Jerusalem: The City of Justice and Peace," a worship liturgy prepared by Palestinian theologians and laity for World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2013, available at [www.worldweekforpeace.org](http://www.worldweekforpeace.org); adapted

- ending the violence racking this region, that the people might live together in peace, security and respect for each other
- those who have grown weary and disillusioned in searching for solutions
- an end to religious differences being exploited to perpetuate conflict and further displacement of people
- political leaders who will courageously bring about justice and reconciliation for the sake of all.

*Prayer Book prayers...*

**Lord's Prayer** ([Millennium version](#))

## Loving the World as God Loves

**Serving in the Week Ahead**

**Offering**

**Blessing**

God go with you in the future,  
Christ Jesus walk beside you  
and the Spirit surround you like a cloud of grace.

Kia tau...

*... Go gently, go lightly*

Robyn McPhail, 30.12.2018

Christmas is a good time to begin standing with the shepherds, to open ourselves to that angelic invitation, and to be disarmed of our fears and the swords we carry.

Jim Forest

### NOTICES FOR TODAY – 30 DECEMBER 2018

**Parish email:** [admin@kkup.org.nz](mailto:admin@kkup.org.nz) **Church Office:** 09 407 8250

Find us at [www.kkup.org.nz](http://www.kkup.org.nz) and on Facebook

**Minister:** Robyn McPhail (DD) 09 283 4802, 021 0247 6280  
[minister@kkup.org.nz](mailto:minister@kkup.org.nz)

**Ministry Leadership Team:** Bev Tayler, Alan Robinson, and Robyn

**Notices:** Jenny Phillips 09 407 8883 [jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jenny.jane@xtra.co.nz)

**KK Pastoral:** Jessica Scott 09 407 5555 [jomscott2@gmail.com](mailto:jomscott2@gmail.com)

**Bookings for the buildings** (hire or church use): phone office or [cornerstone@kkup.org.nz](mailto:cornerstone@kkup.org.nz) or [wesleydale@kkup.org.nz](mailto:wesleydale@kkup.org.nz)

### NEXT SUNDAY 6 JANUARY 2019

**Musicians:** Marie Cannon (KK) Clyde Foster (Kaeo)

**Readers:** Jessica Scott (KK) tba (Kaeo)

**Door and Tea:** Elaine and Ian

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7,10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

**BIBLE STUDY:** Restart in February.

**STUDY LEAVE:** Robyn's study leave is interspersed with parish work, so she is available at times, at other times not. Contact Bev and Alan (Ministry Leadership Group 4016625, 4050688) with initial inquiries.

**CAR BOOT SALES:** Next sale Saturday 12 January 2019 7.30am-12noon at Cornerstone. Contact person: Mary 407 1117.

**MEDIUM SIZED CARTONS** (photocopy box size and larger but not too big): Robyn will happily relieve you of any spare cartons you have, useful for books to go to the book fair, general packing, and for all the paper that will need to go for recycling in the coming months.

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## MARSDEN CROSS SERVICE

Monday 31 December at 11am. This annual service commemorates the first Christian Worship on land in this country on Christmas Day 1814

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