

## **FOOD FOR LIFE**

### **CAROL**

Good morning/evening.

Christmas is to signal a beginning, a change, the advent of something which is anything but what we expect.

We are gathered as God's people to celebrate again what Christ's coming means to the world. We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating today/tonight.

Today/tonight we are invited to stand alongside each other, being the hope of God for one another. We can support each other when the load is too great and we can rejoice together when our work becomes our vision in reality.

#### **Response:**

**O God, let us receive you and work with you that all the earth shall see your salvation.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.

*Isaiah 9:2*

“Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will bring great news to all people.

This very day in David's town a Saviour was born - Christ the Lord!”

*Luke 2:10-11*

### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

Today/tonight we relight the four Advent candles and recall what the good news means.

This is the light of hope (light the first candle).

This is the light of peace (light the second candle).

This is the light of love (light the third candle).

This is the light of joy (light the fourth candle).

(Priest takes the Christ Candle)

Jesus Christ is the greatest gift, who makes all other gifts possible.

So, we light the Christ candle now, as we think about what Christ's coming means to each of us.

Let us pray:

#### **a) Lord God, Son of the Father,**

**You are the light shining in the darkness.**

**You were born this night in a stable.**

**Grant that we may see your Glory,  
the radiant light that beams Your face.**

**Bring light into this world, o Lord,  
both now and forever. Amen.**

#### **b) Father God,**

**Your Son was born to be a Saviour of the world;**

**Through Him we have been made Your children;**

**Through Him we are welcomed into Your Kingdom;**

**Through Him, who lives and reigns with You,**

**One God now and always. Amen.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

*Leader:*

Let this be a sign for you,

The young woman who is with child, shall bear a son,

and shall name him Emmanuel.

*All:*

**We wait, in hope for his birth.**

*Leader:*

The love of God endures for ever.  
The faithfulness of God can be seen around us.  
The promise of God is to be with us.

*All:*

**In retelling the Christmas story  
let there be encouragement for our spirit.**

### COLLECT

God, our Creator,  
in the beginning you planned for man and woman to be your  
partners in caring for our world:  
give us a fresh appreciation of its beauty  
a fresh vision of our task  
that we may restore the land and see that it is good;  
in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

### INVOCATION

Minister Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad  
Let the sea roar and all that fills it  
Let the fields exult and everything in it  
Then shall the trees of the wood  
sing for joy before the Lord  
For he comes to judge the world with righteousness  
and the people with his truth.

**Silence**

Minister The work of God surrounds us.

**Response We respond with praise.**

Minister The love of God is visible.

**Response We respond in faith.**

Minister The word of God is calling.

**Response We respond in hope.**

Minister The wind of the spirit is blowing.

**Response We respond with joy.**

### A CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister Sisters and brothers,  
We have come together to worship God  
who offers us freedom through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
For the spirit of life in Christ Jesus  
has set us free from the law of sin and death.

**Response For we did not receive the spirit of slavery  
to fall back into fear.  
But we have received the spirit of the children of  
God.**

### CONFESSION

Minister Spirit of the Body of Christ.  
Uniting us in the Church  
with your life-giving grace and hope.  
Forgive our fragmenting of your Church  
and our failure to carry your love into the world.

**Response Spirit of God, forgive us and lead us to life in you.**

Minister As the dove gently settles on the tree:  
receive the gift of peace.  
As the flame rises free with light and warmth:  
receive the gift of life.  
As the wind moves and dances round the earth:  
receive the gracious gift of the spirit. Amen.

### **ENTRY OF THE WORD**

Old Testament Reading  
Epistle Reading  
Gradual Carol  
Gospel (stand)  
Sermon

### **HIMENE OR WAIATA**

### **HE TIKANGA WHAKAPONO**

**Ko koe, e te Atua tapu, te tino Atua,  
Nou te mana, te ihi, te wehi.  
Nou te ao, te mauri, te ora.  
Nau te katoa, i te rangi, i te whenua.  
Ko koe tonu te Atua.  
Ko koe te maramatanga o te ao,  
I tiaho ra koe i roto i te pouri,  
Kia puta ake tau Tama ko Ihu Karaiti  
Hei pou tokomanawa mo te ao.  
Ko koe tonu te Atua.**

**Ko koe te Wairua Tapu,  
Ko koe taku rakau,  
Ko koe taku tokotoko,  
Ko koe taku oranga ngakau e,**

**Ko koe tonu ra te Atua. Korokia ki a koe.**

Kia inoi tatou mo te Haahi, mo te ao, me te tuku whakawhetai ki te Atua mo ana hanga pai.

### **INTERCESSIONS**

*Minister* As we share the life of your Church today, we pray that our witness will be true to Christ. Give us a voice for the silenced.

**Response And a quiet communion when only silence will honour pain.**

Minister Give us tears in the face of grief.

**Response And laughter as we experience the joys of your creation.**

Minister Give us sharpness in the revealing of injustice.

**Response And your eternal gentleness with those who cross our path in despair.**

Minister Give us integrity in admitting our confusions.

**Response And faithfulness in our life with our neighbours.**

Minister In the grace of God lies the infinite possibility of hope. God of Life, we thank you for men and women of faith, who throughout history have responded to your call to freedom and life. Open our eyes and awaken our ears to see and hear you at work in the world and in our lives. Break down the barriers that enslave and divide your people, and set them free to life abundance.  
Spirit of truth set us free. Amen.

### **EUCCHARIST SERVICE**

Kia whakaoangia a te Karaiti, te Ariki o te rongomau.  
**E turaki nei i nga tau-arai o te wehe.**

Kia tau te rangimarie o te Atua ki a koutou.  
**Kia whakapaingia te Karaiti e tuitui nei i a tatou i roto i te rongomau.**

### **TE WHAKATIKATIKA I TE OHAOHA**

#### **CAROL**

#### **TE WHAKAWHETAI NUI**

Kua ara a te Karaiti!  
**He pono tonu, kua ara a Ia.**

Whakareia o koutou ngakau ki te rangi  
**kei reira nei te Karaiti kei tona ahurewa tapu.**

Kia whakapaingia te Atua.  
**He mea tika kia tapaea te whakapai, te whakamoemiti.**

Ko te hari mo to matou whakaoranga,  
e te Atua o Tua-whakarere,  
ki te tuku whakawhetai ki a koe  
i roto i a Ihu Karaiti.

Paoho ana tau kupu, 'Kia tiaho te marama';  
na, ka marama.  
E tiaho tonu nei tou maramatanga i roto i to matou pouri.  
Nau i pou te mauri-ora mo nga mea katoa.  
Nau hoki matou i waihanga,  
ki te whakarongo ki tau kupu,  
kia eke ai ki te taumata o tou aroha.  
He mea tika kia whakapaingia koe.

Nau i tonu mau tau Tama  
hei ara whainga ma matou,  
hei pono e manakohia ana e matou.

I tukua mai e koe tau Tama  
kia whakamatea hei toha i te ora,  
hei wewete i o matou hara.  
Kua unuhia o matou he e tona ripeka.

I tonoa mai tou Wairua Tapu  
hei whakakaha, hei arataki,  
hei whakatupato, hei whakahou i tau Haahi.  
Waihoki, i tenei roopu whakaatu  
e karapoti nei i a matou,  
ko tona rite ki nga whetu, te taea te tatau,  
ka whakamoemiti matou i runga i te ngakau aroha, i te ngakau hari,  
mou i waihanga, i karanga i a matou:

**E te Atua tapu rawa, mahi tohu,  
tino tapu, tino tika,  
nou te kororia, nou te purotu.  
Kororia ki a koe, e te Atua,  
te Runga rawa,  
te Atua mahaki.**

E te tino Tapu, ka whakapaingia koe, i roto i tau Tama  
i tuohu nei ki te horoi i nga wae o ana akonga,  
te tohu o te Kai-mahi tuturu.

I te po i mua i tona matenga  
ka tango ia i te taro ka tuku whakawhetai ki a koe.  
Ka whawhati , ka hoatu ki ana akonga, a ka mea:  
Tangohia, kainga, ko toku tinana tenei ka hoatu nei mo koutou  
meinga tenei hei whakamahara ki ahau.

No reira ma tenei taro me tenei waina ka maumahara matou  
ki au painaga ki a matou.