

## Collect and Readings for Sunday 28 December 2025

### Collect for the First Sunday of Christmas

Jesus, you saw the world through the eyes of a child. Save us from the pride that would refuse your command to live like you in simplicity and joy. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen.**

*E Īhu, i kite koe i te ao pērā i te tamaiti. Whakaorangia mātou i te whakahīhī kei kuare mātou i āu tohutohu kia noho pēnā i a koe i roto i te ngāwari me te hari koa. Whakarongo ki tēnei ĭnoi i runga i tōu aroha. Āmine.*

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 63: 7-9

- <sup>7</sup> I will recount the Lord's faithful acts;  
I will sing the Lord's praises,  
because of all the Lord did for us,  
for God's great favour toward the house of Israel.  
God treated them compassionately  
and with deep affection.
- <sup>8</sup> God said, "Truly, they are my people,  
children who won't do what is wrong."  
God became their saviour.
- <sup>9</sup> During all their distress, God also was distressed,  
so a messenger who served him saved them.  
In love and mercy God redeemed them,  
lifting and carrying them throughout earlier times.

### Epistle Reading: Hebrews 2: 10-18

<sup>10</sup> It was appropriate for God, for whom and through whom everything exists, to use experiences of suffering to make perfect the pioneer of salvation. This salvation belongs to many sons and daughters whom he's leading to glory. <sup>11</sup> This is because the one who makes people holy and the people who are being made holy all come from one source. That is why Jesus isn't ashamed to call them brothers and sisters when he says,

<sup>12</sup> *I will publicly announce your name to my brothers and sisters.  
I will praise you in the middle of the assembly.*

<sup>13</sup> He also says, *I will rely on him.*  
And also, *Here I am with the children whom God has given to me.*

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he also shared the same things in the same way. He did this to destroy the one who holds the power over death—the devil—by dying. <sup>15</sup>He set free those who were held in slavery their entire lives by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup>Of course, he isn't trying to help angels, but rather he's helping Abraham's descendants.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every way. This was so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to wipe away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>He's able to help those who are being tempted, since he himself experienced suffering when he was tempted.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 13-23**

<sup>13</sup>When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." <sup>14</sup>Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. <sup>15</sup>He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I have called my son out of Egypt.* <sup>16</sup>When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup>This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>18</sup>*A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and much grieving.  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she did not want to be comforted,  
because they were no more.*

<sup>19</sup>After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. <sup>20</sup>"Get up," the angel said, "and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead." <sup>21</sup>Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

[Translation: Common English Bible (CEB)]

## Hymns for Sunday 28 December 2025

### Opening Hymn:

#### Te Harinui

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

*Te Harinui*

*Te Harinui*

*Te Hari-nu-i*

*Glad tidings of great joy*

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

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

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



### Gradual Hymn:

#### It came upon the midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the  
earth To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth  
    good will to all,  
From heaven's  
    all gracious King  
The world in solemn  
    stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies  
    they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly  
    music floats  
O'er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing

Yet with the woes of  
    sin and strife  
The world has suffered long  
Beneath the angel strain  
    have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong  
And warring humankind  
    hears not  
The love song which they bring  
O hush the noise ye men of strife  
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are  
    hastening on  
By prophets seen of old,

When with the  
ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold  
When peace shall over  
all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

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### **Offertory:**

#### **Here is Bread, Here is Wine**

Here is bread here is wine  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Break the bread drink the wine  
Christ is with us here

#### **Chorus**

*In this bread there is healing  
In this cup there's life forever  
In this moment by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here*

Here is grace here is peace  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Know His grace find His peace  
Feast on Jesus here

#### **Chorus**

Here we are joined in one  
Christ is with us He is with us  
We'll proclaim 'til He comes  
Jesus crucified

#### **Chorus**

CCLI Song # 983717 Graham Kendrick

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### **During Communion: Taste and See**

### **Closing Hymn:**

#### **There Is A Redeemer**

There is a Redeemer  
Jesus God's own Son  
Precious Lamb of God Messiah  
Holy One

#### **Chorus**

*Thank You O my Father  
For giving us Your Son  
And leaving Your Spirit  
Till the work on earth is done*

Jesus my Redeemer  
name above all names  
Precious Lamb of God Messiah  
O for sinners slain

#### **Chorus**

When I stand in glory  
I will see His face  
There I'll serve my King forever  
In that holy place

#### **Chorus**

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