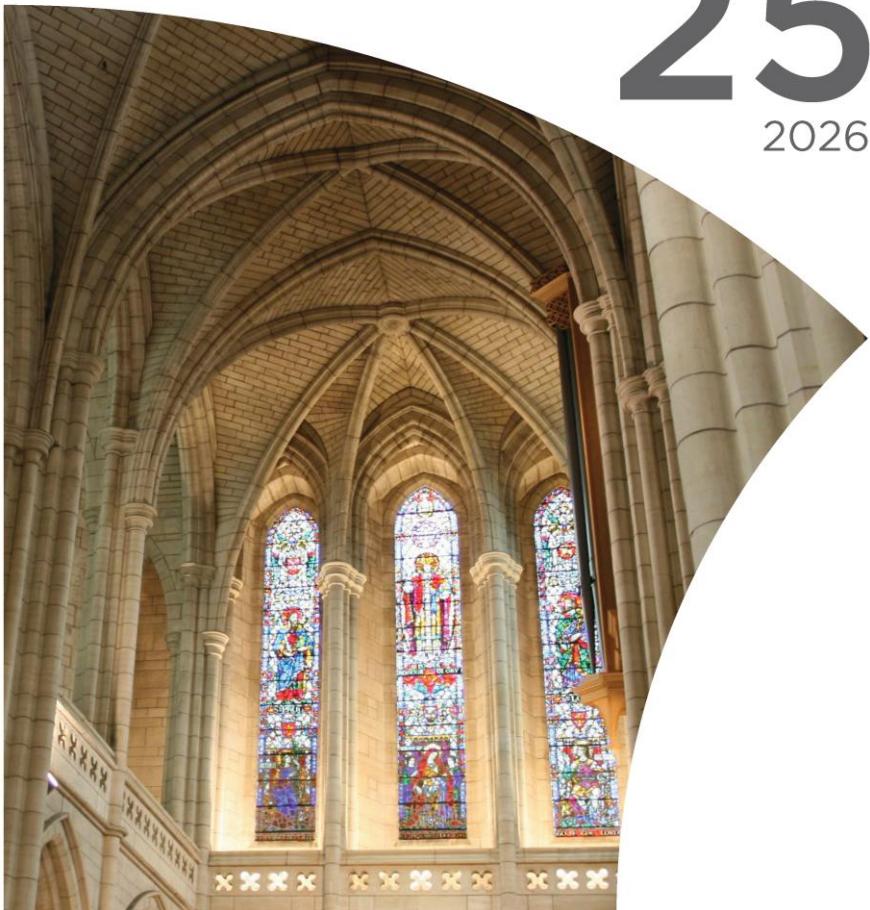




SUNDAY
JANUARY

25
2026



EPIPHANY 3

*At any time in the service when we invite you to stand
you are welcome to remain seated if you need to.*

NOTICES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'The kingdom is upon you!'
the voice of Jesus cries,
fulfilling with its message
the wisdom of the wise;
it lightens with fresh insight
the striving human mind,
creating new dimensions
of faith for all to find.

'God's kingdom is upon you!'
the message sounds today,
it summons every pilgrim
to take the questing way,
with eyes intent on Jesus,
our leader and our friend,
who trod faith's road before us,
and trod it to the end.

The kingdom is upon us!
Stirred by the Spirit's breath,
we glory in its freedom
from emptiness and death;
we celebrate its purpose,
its mission and its goal,
alive with the conviction
that Christ can make us whole.

Words: Robert Andrew Willis

Tune: Wolvercote, William Harold Ferguson (1874-1950). TiS 595

WELCOME

Come people of God,
turn your hearts and minds to the light of Christ
even as we turn to the warmth of our summer sun.
Let us be ready to welcome the events and the people
who may become turning points in our lives.

**We welcome with eyes and hearts open,
ready to see God present in our summer world;
in the people we meet and in the things we do.**

Liturgist:

This is what God asks of you:
to act justly, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly upon our earth.

**God of grace,
in whom we live and move and dance for joy,
guide our steps through the complexities of life;
widen our vision that our sight be not limited
by what we see, nor our wisdom by what we know,
nor our love by what we can accept. Amen.**

THE GLORIA

**Glorious are you, Mystery of Life,
essence of all creation.
You are the symphony of stars and planets.
You are the music of the atoms within us.
You are the dawn on mountain peaks,
the moonlight on evening seas.
Forest and farm, the rush of the city,
everything is embraced in your love.**

Glorious are you, O Jesus Christ,
Cosmic love in human flesh.
You graced the smallness of time and place
to teach us to dance to the music.
You walk on our seas and heal in our streets.
You make your home in our lives,
revealing that cross and resurrection
are one on the road to freedom.

**Glorious are you, O Spirit of Truth,
wisdom and breath of our being.
You are the wind that sweeps our senses.
You are the fire that burns in our hearts.
You are the needle of the inner compass,
always pointing to true North,
guiding us on the sacred dance
into the Mystery of Life.¹**

Please be seated.

RECONCILIATION

In this time of quiet
we invite you to reflect on life this holiday season.
Bring into the presence of God, in this place,
the joys and burdens you carry with you this morning.
If you need forgiveness, seek it in the renewing love of
God.

If you need healing, or courage, or wisdom,
seek it in the peace of God.

Jesus says,
“Ask, and it will be given to you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you”

Luke 11:9

¹Joy Cowley

Silence.

**Gracious God,
give us the wisdom to hold to what we need,
grace to let go of those things
that we can do without,
and a vision of your breadth, height, and depth
that will challenge our smallness of heart,
and bring us humbly together.**

Priest:

Spirit of God hold us,
Spirit of God move us, Spirit of God burn within us,
so that we may light up the world with your love.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The people walking in darkness
are seeing a brilliant light -
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadow
light is shining.

Isaiah 9:2

**God of all people,
you sent your Son into the shrouded world,
into the borderlands;
may Christ's dawning light
give hope to the broken, the persecuted,
the alien and excluded,
that we might feel your reign drawing near
and turn to follow your way. Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:1-4

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew, chapter four, beginning at verse twelve.

Shine on our pathways.

Matthew 4:12-23

This is the Gospel of Christ.

May we hear wisdom.

THE SERMON

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

Please stand.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.**

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.²

Please be seated.

² NZ Prayer Book, p. 481

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us be still and mindful of the world, the Church, this nation, our communities, and ourselves.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you
and also with you.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *

**Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith
that you alone provide the words of life and death:
in wine and bread, in promised food
we find your loving heart, O God.**

**Hands of the world stretch out, your mystery to touch
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
to sing in joy, to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.**

**Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around one table stood,
this bread to break, this wine to taste –
one people in the name of Christ.**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Love Unknown, John Nicholson Ireland (1879-1962). TIS 341

* During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.
For electronic giving options:

1. to make a fast one-off, or ongoing, donation to St Matthew-in-the-City text **stmatthew** to **818**, or **scan this QR code**:
2. use the Tap-n-Go terminal on top of the donation box.



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

God, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of you, our light and our hope.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Spirit is here.

God's hope is in us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son: for at this time we celebrate your revelation in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi Jesus was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism he was revealed as your Son, sent among us.

In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices in joyful words of praise:

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just,
glory and goodness come from you.**

Glory to you most high and gracious God.

On that night before he died
Jesus took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:

Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you, shed for all,
to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one;
so may we be gathered into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Send your Holy Spirit,
that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share his cup
draw strength from the one true vine.

**Praise, glory and love be yours,
this and every day, from us and all people,
here and everywhere. Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e to tātou Ariki, ka īnoi tātou:

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi,
kia tapu tōu Ingoa.**

Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

**Kia meatia tāu e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.**

**Hōmai ki a mātou āianei
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.**

**Murua ū mātou hara,
me mātou hoki e muru nei,
i ū te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.**

**Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:**

**Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,
Āke, ake, ake. Āmine.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.³**

We sing three times Taizé:



A - do - ra - mus te Chris - te, be - ne - di - ci - mus ti - bi,
qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum,
qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum.

³ The prayers are taken from the Church of England resources and A NZ Prayer Book

TE POWHIRI THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua,
Tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

*All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine;
there are gluten free wafers, just ask the serving priest.*

*There is a chalice for dipping –
simply hold the bread in front of you to signify your choice.*

If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing.

*If the stairs are a barrier please sit in the front pews
and communion will be brought to you.*

Te Taro o te Ora. The Bread of Life

Te Kapu o te Ora. The Cup of Salvation

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest:

God of abundant love and unexpected gifts.
We delight in your presence amongst us.

**We are glad we can gather around your table as friends
sharing the bread of life and wine of blessing.**

In this holiday season

**we will look for you in the smile of strangers,
we will honour you in the life of those we love,
we will be people of God and the Body of Christ
wherever we are. Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God who surprises and challenges us
call you into the love that holds nothing in reserve
and empower you to share that love
with the people around you.
And the blessing of God,
Creating, Redeeming, and Giving us life,
be with you all, this day and always. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

**God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward
stir the spirit, stretch the mind;
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.**

**Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble, lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.**

**End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.**

**When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.**

Words: Joy Dine

Tune: Hyfrydol, melody by Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887). TiS 217(i)

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now to live the Gospel. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the power of Love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*We invite you to **keep** this copy of the Service and take it home with you to share with
another member of your family, or with a friend **OR**
put in a recycling bin provided at the back of the church.*

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