



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
21



CREATION3

2025

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.**

**Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence –
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –
foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
shown Christ's vibrant unity.**

*Words: John L Bell & Graham Maule
Tune: Praise, my soul. John Goss (1800-1880). TIS 179*

WELCOME

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,
the love at our beginning and without end,
in our midst and with us.

God is with us, here we find new life.

Liturgist: Let us give thanks
for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

**Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,
release for the captives,
recovery of sight for the blind
and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

GLORIA

Sing prais - es to God, Cre -
at - ing Pres - ence, Spin - ner of star - dust bril - liant with light,
Paint - er of dark - ness, deep - er than night. All glo - ry to God.
Sing prais - es to God,
born of com - pas - sion, Heal - ing re - la - tion - ship, bless - ing the poor,
Spurned as a reb - el by peo - ple in power. All glo - ry to God.



Words: Jenny Blood (1932-2022). Music: Michael CW Bell

Please be seated.

Liturgist:

Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life
and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.
We confess how estranged we have become—
from one another, from your Creation,
and from our truest selves.
We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses
have fractured our relationships with you,
with others, and with the Earth.
Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate,
oceans and rivers are polluted.
Thriving communities have become places of suffering,
and the earth cries out.

Silence

Let us ask Christ for forgiveness for these days of destruction.

**God, our Creator,
forgive us for our crimes against creation,
our days of destruction on earth,
and give us the courage in Christ
to work with the Earth to bring healing and peace.**

The Absolution is declared by the presiding priest.

Grace flows like a river; mercy like a never-ending stream.
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Amen.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.

Matthew 9:13

**Creator God,
the sleeping seed needs the yielding soil,
the slow strength of patient time.
May we be open to word and light
and the soft persistence of growing things.
We are connected with all things
may the weave between us make strong our fragile
hearts. Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 3:1-6

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

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows.
are more felt than in this place,
but we are again united
with unending love, and grace.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the scope of human mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple
we could listen to God's word;
then our hearts would find assurance
beating strong with one accord.**

*Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863) alt.
Tune: Cross of Jesus, John Stainer (1840-1901). TIS 136*

THE GOSPEL

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



Be a lamp to my feet.

Matthew 9:9-13

This is the Gospel of Christ.



Be a light for my path.

SERMON

SILENCE

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist:

We stand to affirm our faith.

**God is with us, this we believe.
For we have seen the signs of grace
in every place, in every generation.**

**The beauty of the creation,
in all its pristine wonder,
is not the only dwelling place of the Creator.**

**This, our God, is born again in cities as well as stables,
is found in holy places
in the modern market place
and sits with us in coffee shops
and by the one who hopefully sings a song
on the streets of this day.**

**The Spirit dances on concrete
and holds in comfort
those who walk with briefcases and shopping bags.
The God who is more than we can ever name or know
is beside us in every work place
and every hidden home of our body, mind and soul.¹**

Please be seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist:

Let us pray for those far and near, people and places,
powerful and powerless, all for whom we are concerned.

¹Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies For Pausing" p. 4

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.

A ki a koe ano hoki.

[The peace of Christ be always with you. And also with you.]

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *

**For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done.**

**In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

* *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.*



**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

*Words: Frederick Pratt Green (1903-2000)
Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos, Welsh traditional melody
arr. as in the English Hymnal, 1906. TIS 168*

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Priest:

Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

All:

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest:

The Spirit is here.

All:

God's hope is in us.

Priest:

Lift up your hearts.

All:

We lift them up to God.

Priest:

Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

All:

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Life-giving God, your word speaks in the void,
calling into being things that are not,
inviting us to share your work of creation.

We thank you for the ages long of gathering stars and cooling earth,
of life evolving and waking eyes of wonder.

We thank you for the creatures with whom we share the world,
for their lives so different from our own and the richness they reveal.

We thank you for Jesus the Son,
formed from Mary's body and nurtured by her faith;
he walked the growing earth and proclaimed a fearless kingdom
of bird and lily, child and stranger, the beggar and the blind.

On the cross, Christ joined the labour of all creation's yearning;
And in his rising hallowed us all to bear the glory of God;
and sent the brooding Spirit to bring to birth a living hope.

Therefore, with all that has life through Christ
with animals and angels and all who hope for a new creation,
we share the song of love which sounds from all eternity:

4
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of po-wer and might

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

2
Bless the One who comes in the pow'r of love.

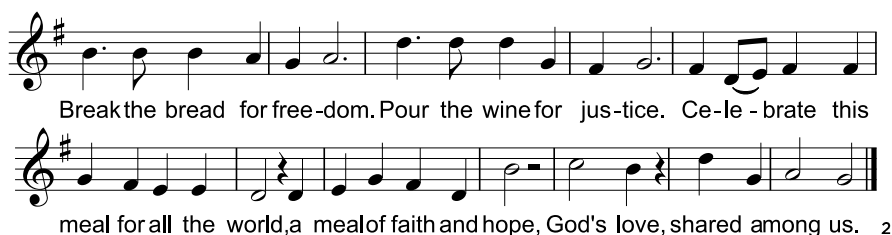
3
Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high-est!

We give thanks for our brother, Jesus Christ;
who, on the night that he was betrayed,
gathered with his friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.

As on that night, so here and now
Christ is present in touch and taste beyond all words.



Break the bread for free-dom. Pour the wine for jus-tice. Ce-le-brate this
meal for all the world, a meal of faith and hope, God's love, shared among us. ²

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts
so that these fragile, earthly things
will be to us the bread and wine of life. ³

United in the power of love with all who stand for justice,
we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.



Blessing and hon-our and glo-ry be Yours, here and
ev-ry-where now and for-ev-er, A-men.

Please be seated.

² Words by Jenny Blood (1932-2022)

³ Steven Shakespeare, adapted

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki, ka inoi tatou:

**E to matou Matua i te rangi,
kia tapu tou Ingoa.**

Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.

**Kia meatia tau e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.**

Homai ki a matou aianeī he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.

Murua o matou hara,

me matou hoki e muru nei,

i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.

Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;

engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:

Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,

te kaha, me te kororia,

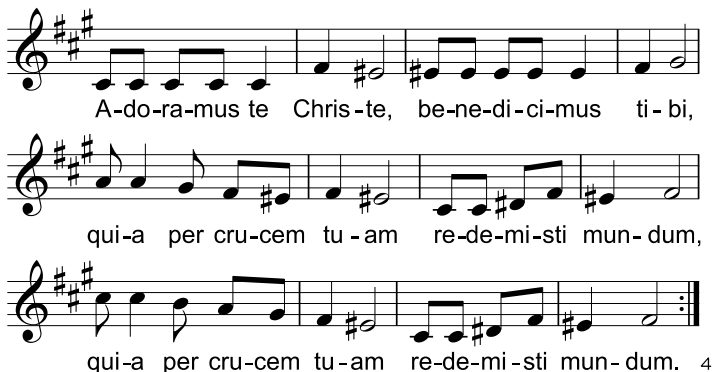
Ake, ake, ake. Amine.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

We sing three times:



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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. 4

⁴ We adore you, Jesus Christ, and we bless your holy name;
truly your cross and passion bring us life and healing.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Creating God,

give us hearts to understand;

never to take from creation's beauty more than we give;

never to destroy for the furtherance of greed;

never to deny giving our time and energy

for the building of Earth's beauty;

never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

that as we care for the Earth, the Earth will care for us.

Amen.

BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

**Deep in the human heart
the fire of justice burns:
a vision of a world renewed
through radical concerns.
As Christians we are called
to set the captives free,
to overthrow the evil powers
and end hypocrisy.**

**This is our task today
to build a world of peace;
a world of justice, freedom, truth,
where kindness will increase;
a world from hunger freed,
a world where people share,
where every person is of worth
and no one lives in fear.**

**Taking the step of faith
we leave despair behind
and move into the future's world
with open heart and mind.
By grace we work with Christ,
as one community,
to bring new hope and fuller life
to all humanity.**

*Words: W. L. Wallace, adapted
Tune: Diademata, George Job Elvey (1816-1893). TiS 228*

Deacon from the rear of the Church:

**Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.
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.

Music for Liturgical responses is by Michael CW Bell

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