



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Community of Christ, who made the cross your own, live out your creed and risk your life for God alone: the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong, whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the Church's door and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor. Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street, take towel and water, that you wash your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the world must sound – cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round: disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy, turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done, the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun; our currency be love and kindliness our law, our food and faith be shared as one forevermore.

> Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) Tune: Leoni, Hebrew Synagogue melody transcribed by Meyer Lyon (1751-1797), arr. Thomas Olivers (1725-1799). TiS 473

WELCOME

Priest: Kua ara a te Karaiti. Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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:

In this Easter season, we celebrate that the powers of despair and destruction do not have the final word; that new life can still break out; that love is stronger than death; and that nothing can stop the life, hope, and determination of Easter people.

God of grace, we come today with Easter joy, seeking to be a people of resurrection. Gather us together now, form us into a community of your people, and reveal to us the Holy One. Amen.

THE GLORIA



Praise the Holy Name,

whose word speaks all things into being, who created the forces of the universe and the laughter of children. Praise the Holy Name!



Praise the living God:

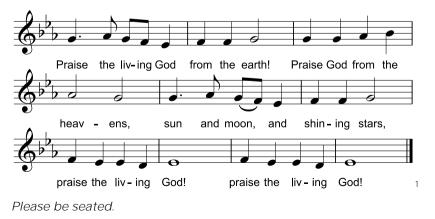
clouds and storms and ocean currents, fish in the sea and creatures of the deep, animals and cattle, insects and birds, praise the living God!



Praise the Holy Name

who did not rely only on angels and messengers

but came among us in person, whose living presence saves us! Praise God's Holy Name!



¹ Words: Brian Wren (adapted)

A NEW COMMANDMENT

Hear the teaching of Christ: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

God has remembered God's steadfast love and faithfulness; so make a joyful noise, all the earth, break forth into joyous song. *Psalm 98:2, 4*

God of abiding love, you choose us as your servants and dare to call us friends: take our fragmented hearts, commanding them to love, making whole our joy, our life reborn in you; Amen.

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:44-48

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



Words: John 13; source unknown (L.F.B.) Tune: New Commandment. TiS 699

THE GOSPEL

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



John 15:9-17

This is the Gospel of Christ.



THE SERMON

ANTHEM

When I needed a neighbour

Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

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.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

The peace of God be with you all.

In God's justice is our peace.

E te whanau, Christ calls us to live in unity. We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN *

Love is the touch of intangible joy; love is the force that no fear can destroy; love is the goodness we gladly applaud: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice; love is the hope that can make us rejoice; love is the cure for the frightened and flawed: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain; love is the will to be whole once again; love is the trust of a friend on the road: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son; love is the kingdom their will has begun; love is the pathway the saints all have trod: God is where love is, for love is of God.

> Words: Alison M. Robertson Tune: Slane (2), Irish traditional melody harm. from Erik Reginald Routley (1917-1982). TiS 626

* During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.

For electronic giving option to make a fast one off or ongoing donation to St Matthew-in-the-City text stmatthew to 818, or scan this QR code:



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is right and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creating God. In you all things are good.

You love us into being, you form us in your image and breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away, and our love fails,

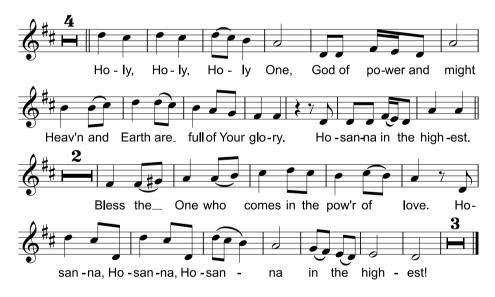
your love remains steadfast.

Your love delivers us from captivity,

and brings us into lands flowing with milk and honey.

You set before us the way of life.

And so, with the people of earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:



Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus.

By his baptism and death

you give your church birth into a living hope.

In Christ, risen from death,

you make a new covenant with us by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom.

We are now your resurrected people, the living body of Christ. declaring life, hope and justice.

On the last night Jesus shared a meal with his friends, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat: this is my Body which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said,

Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new Covenant,

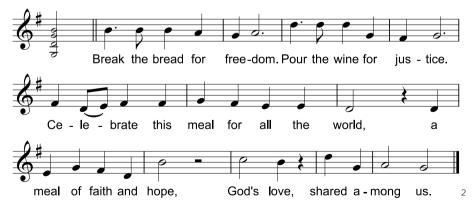
which is shed for you and for all,

for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me.

On the third day he was revealed to the women and was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of bread.



² Words by Jenny Blood (1932-2022)

And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus the Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, and we praise you and we bless you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

By your spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in loving service to all the world, until all feast at your heavenly banquet.³



Please be seated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e to tātou Ariki, ka inoi 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 ō mātou hara, me mātou hoki e muru nei, i ō 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.

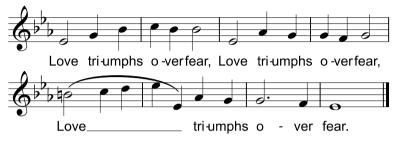
³ Richard Fabian, St Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, adapted

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the hope of Christ.

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

We sing three times:



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

Love one another

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Ubi caritas

Love divine

Howard Goodall

Ola Gjeilo

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands; the word of life in whom our joy is complete: send us out to declare your truth, your unshakeable faith in the world you love. Amen. ⁴

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

From this holy time, from this sacred space, we go now to serve our own day and place, committed to follow the way Jesus trod: do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.

He lives in our midst, though gone from our sight, baptised in his name, we walk in his light; we treasure his presence, example and word: do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.

⁴ Steven Shakespeare

Let this be our life, till Christ come again to love as he loves and work for God's reign, this song in our hearts and this sign on our road: do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.

> Words: Marine Barrell Tune: Laudate Dominum, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918). TiS 215

Deacon from the rear of the Church:

Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Amen. We go in the power of love.

Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata in G

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

MUSIC NOTES

Samuel Sebastian Wesley's Blessed be the God and Father was written for a service held on Easter Day 1853 at Hereford Cathedral, when "only Trebles and a single Bass voice were available, the bass singer being the Dean's butler." Wesley was known for going fishing in the marshes behind the cathedral during the extended sermons, sometimes not returning to finish the service. Love one another is a beautiful duet taken from the more extended anthem, setting words from the First Epistle of Peter.

Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo writes this about his motet Ubi Caritas, "The first time I sung in a choir was in high school; I went to a music high school in Norway and choir was obligatory. I loved it from the very first rehearsal, and the first piece we read through was Maurice same text myself a few years later, it was inevitable that the Duruflé would influence it, and it did. While Duruflé used an existing, traditional chant in his piece, I used chant more as a general inspiration, while also echoing the form and dynamic range of his incomparable setting of thetext."

Translation:

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.

Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Love Divine was commissioned by the British Choir Schools' Association to celebrate the new millennium. Composer Howard Goodall writes that "although a seemingly odd choice of text (the original was published in 1747), I realised on looking at this wonderful set of verses afresh that it was possible to hear them with a slightly different lilt and accent - to put them into a contemporary context." Love Divine was first performed on 26 February 2000 in Oxford by the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, as part of a concert celebrating the founding 150 years before of the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, by a pioneer religious group from the Oxford college.

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

Hymns reproduced with permission under CCLI licence 637264 Hymns and music livestreamed with permission under CCLI licence 1483113