



St Matthew-in-the-City
First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday 27 December 2020

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

O come, let us adore him . . .

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born that happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father
now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him . . .

*Words: possibly by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)
Tune: Adeste Fideles,
probably by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786). TIS 304*

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.

¹ Joy Cowley

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 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)

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 child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favour of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

Faithful God,
the coming of your Son
was revealed to Anna and Simeon
who had waited faithfully with hope.
May your Spirit inspire us to wait expectantly
for what the new year will bring,
seeking you in all we do. Amen. ²

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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

² NZ lectionary, adapted

THE GRADUAL HYMN

Come in, come in New Year
with shining summer day!
Your promise calls us here
to celebrate and pray,
through January's open door
to stride with hopeful step once more.

Come in, New Year, and sell
your wares of chance and change:
engage us with your spell
to risk and re-arrange,
to feel the Spirit's impulse beat,
to follow down a different street.

For though December dies,
still Christmas keeps the light,
the hope in children's eyes,
the star that shatters night;
now Simeon and Anna see
the Child who rules all time to be.

The calendar of Christ
will mark the seasons' turn,
his story claim our trust,
his love be ours to learn.
For all the world, for young and old
we pray a year of peace unfold.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Little Cornard, Martin Shaw (1875-1958). TIS 469*

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Luke,
chapter two, beginning at verse twenty-two.

Shine on our pathways.

Luke 2:22-40

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.

Please be seated.

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 ³

Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our **mother's arms**
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in our faith
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
Creator now be given;
the Spirit and the Son
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

*Words: M. Rinkart (1586-1649), tr. C. Winkworth (1827-1878)
Tune: Nun danket alle Gott (1), Johann Crüger (1598-1662). TIS 106 (i)*

³ *During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's;
for electronic giving option: text stmatthew to 818 to make a fast
one off or ongoing donation by credit card to St Matthew-in-the-City.
Or you can download the PUSHPAY app from Apple Store or Google
Playstore and search for St Matthew-in-the-City.*

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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

Blessed be God forever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Hope is among us.

We are God's light.

Shine then with freedom
into all the corners of the world.

Lest fear overcome the brilliance
of life and light and liberty.

All life is holy, sacred; worthy of respect and dignity.
Let us give thanks for the power of the heart
to sense the holy in the midst of the simple.

Power and possibility of Love,
we praise you and give you thanks,
for in this season Jesus was born among us,
a baby needy and naked, born into poverty and oppression,
in order to proclaim the gift of your transforming grace and justice.

Therefore with all the faithful, living and dead,
with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Magi, and angels,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might.
Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Bless the One who comes in the power of love.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

On the night before he died Jesus took bread;
when he had given 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; when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood which brings new life;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

With this bread and wine we answer the call of God.

We offer bread to eat with eyes and hands held open.

We pass this cup to share.

We take, break,

bless and give kindling hope everywhere.

Empower our celebration, Spirit of promise,
feed us with your life, fire us with your love,
confront us with your justice,
and make us one with all who share your gifts of love.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ teaches us we pray

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

TE POWHIRI

THE INVITATION

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

Come God's people,
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

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

*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:

Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant Saviour,
baby who makes every birth holy.

May we, who like the shepherds
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love
return to our work with joy.

May we, for whom the heavens have opened
to proclaim that God is with us,
we who have fed on living bread
and drunk the wine of heaven,
go out to be instruments of your peace,
day by day. Amen.

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God, dismiss us with thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Travelling through the wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
may your presence, may your presence,
with us evermore be found.

Words: John Fawcett (1740-1817) alt.

Tune: Alleluia. Dulce Carmen.

From An Essay on the Church Plain Chant 1782. Voices United 425

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

*You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.*

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