



SUNDAY
DECEMBER

17



ADVENT 3

2023

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

INTROIT

O Oriens

O Rex Gentium

Great O Antiphons

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune: Cross of Jesus, John Stainer (1840-1901). TIS 136

WELCOME

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:

Watch, wait, hope!

Even now, the tender leaves of peace
may be growing on the trees of life.

Watch, wait, hope!

For the wonder of new love may be moving towards its birthing.

The Christ will come.

The Word of God will not fail us.

Keep awake!

For the shadows of our doubt will be lifted
and singing sounds in the distance.

The Christ will come.

The Word of God will not fail us. ¹

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

In high summer as korimako and tūī carol the dawn,

as bees swarm harakeke stalks

laden with nectar filled flowers,

and toetoe dance in the wind

we light the candle of joy.

May there be joy for the oppressed,

and joy for those bound by structures of injustice;

and may tears of mourning be turned, to tears of celebration.

We light the Advent candle of joy. Amen. ²

Please be seated.

RECONCILIATION

Liturgist:

When joy is hard to find open our eyes to look again, O God.

Open our minds to search again

for your presence and your purpose.

**Loving Spirit, search our hearts
and meet us in this place.**

¹ Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days", adapted

² <https://cws.org.nz/get-involved/give/christmas-appeal/for-churches/> (Adapted)

Within our darkest night, you kin-dle the fire that never dies a -
 way, never dies a - way. Within our darkest night, you kin-dle the
 fire that nev-er dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way.

3

Silence

We know
 that we are the ones who are divided
 and we are the ones who must come back together.
 May we learn love, compassion, and honour
 that we may heal the earth, each other, and ourselves.

Priest:

May we know the grace of forgiveness
 and offer that grace to others.
 May the fires of hope be rekindled among us,
 giving light and warmth to the world.

Amen.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and a garden its seeds to blossom,
so Exalted Yahweh makes justice sprout,
and praises spring up before all nations.

Isaiah 61:11

God of light,
who sent the Baptist
to offer hope and face the world's scorn:
open our ears to hear the cries from the margins,
exposing our fears, inciting our vision
and calling us to a life of faith;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.
Amen. ⁴

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Let us wait,
and hope in God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Out of such sun and air
what Christ may come,
shining with new and lovely light
on our dim and shrouded lives;
stirring our sleepiness and dreams,
visions of life beyond compare.
Out of this sun and air
come, Christ, however you will come.

⁴ *Steven Shakespeare*

Out of such cloud and mist
what Christ may come,
blurring the clear and simple lines
of our settled scheme of things;
calling on faith and hope and trust,
daring to danger, trial and risk.
Out of this cloud and mist
come, Christ, however you will come.

Out of such sudden storm
what Christ may come,
sweeping across the startled sky
of our calm and peaceful ways;
driving with tempest winds of change,
testing with tumult and reform.
Out of this sudden storm
come, Christ, however you will come.

*Words: Colin Gibson
Tune: Northland, Colin Gibson. AA 114*

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John,
chapter one, beginning at verse six.



Shine on our path -ways.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom.

THE SERMON

SILENCE

THE MAGNIFICAT (The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55)

Magnificat in A

Herbert Sumsion (1889-1995)

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.

We commit ourselves to live in peace as we work for it
to kindle peace within, between and beyond us.

For the peace of Jesus is an active peace
building, bridging and always dreaming.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come with the sound of trumpet,
come with the beat of drum,
come with the church bells ringing,
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in the new dawn's silence,
come in the heat of noon,
come in the evening's splendour,
but come, Lord Jesus, soon.

Come to our world expectant,
come to our homes and hearts,
come to our towns and cities,
Lord, come, and loving starts.
Come as our Church awaits you,
come as your people pray,
come as your children listen,
so come to us today.

Come while the choir is singing,
come while the organ plays,
come while we take communion,
come in a thousand ways.
Come as the dew at daybreak,
come as the morning sun,
come as the shadows lengthen,
now come to make us one.

Words: Jocelyn Marshall (b. 1931)

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

* *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

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

Musical notation for the first part of the song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of two triplet eighth notes followed by a quarter note, then a quarter note followed by a half note. The lyrics are: Bless-ed be God for ev - er.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Cantor *All*

Musical notation for the first part of the second song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note, followed by a double bar line, then a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics are: Hope is a - mong us. We are God's light.

Cantor *All*

Musical notation for the second part of the second song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note, followed by a double bar line, then a half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The lyrics are: Shine then with free - dom into all the cor - ners of the world.

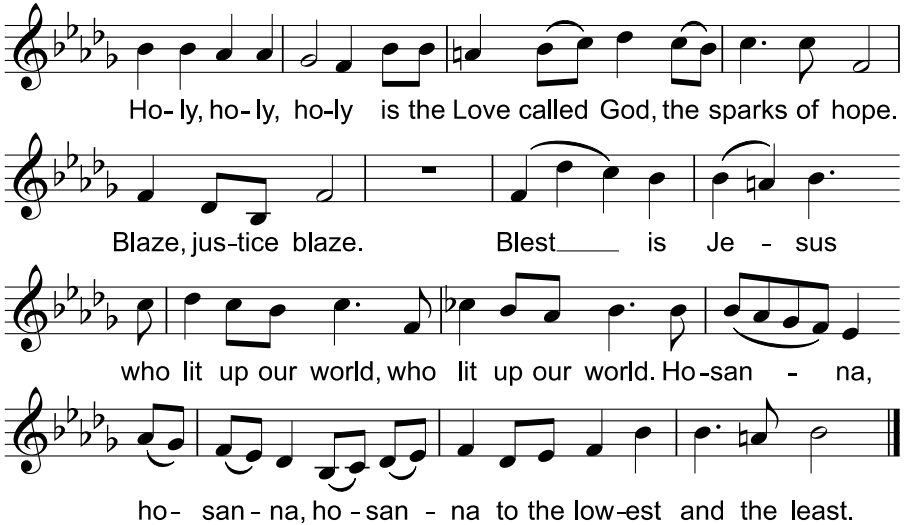
Cantor *All*

Musical notation for the third part of the second song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note, followed by a double bar line, then a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics are: Lest fear overcome the bril - liance of life and light and lib - er - ty.

O God, Mystery of summer skies,
we thank you in the lengthening days
for opening our eyes to see your sunlit beauty;
for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light;
for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.

Jesus was promised by those
who shared your dream of peace;
John the Baptist cleared the way
with words of desert fire;
Mary and Joseph accepted his coming
with tenderness and faith;
we know that he draws near again
to show us who we really are with honesty and love.

Now we take up the song of hope
that we might awaken to his coming among us
and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Love called God, the sparks of hope.

Blaze, jus-tice blaze. Blest is Je - sus

who lit up our world, who lit up our world. Ho-san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na to the low-est and the least.

On the night that he was betrayed,
your Son Christ Jesus,
gathered with his faltering 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
he offers himself in touch and taste
beyond all words can hold.



We of - fer bread to eat with eyes and hands held
o - pen. We pass this cup to share. We take, break,
bless and give kind-ling hope ev' - ry where.

Therefore, in our eating and drinking
we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ;
we proclaim him as creation's **host**,
transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.
We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts
that these fragile, earthly things may symbolize for us
the body and blood of our brother, Christ Jesus.

Inspire us with the Advent hope
that one day death and greed will be no more
and people without number will come from east and west,
north and south to share the kingdom meal.

All honour and glory be yours, Mother of blessings,
for ever and ever.

Amen. ⁵

Please be seated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e to tātou Ariki, ka waiata 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 āiane
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.

⁵ *Steven Shakespeare Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 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 Taizé "Dona nobis pacem" (Grant us peace):

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem;
do - na no - bis pa - cem.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the prayer, with lyrics 'Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem;'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'do - na no - bis pa - cem.'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

I look from afar

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come

Paul Otto Manz (1919-2009)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest:

Most loving God,
we are thankful for all we have shared
around this table of love.

**We are thankful that through faith,
hope will overcome doubt,
love will overcome fear,
and light will overcome darkness.
May the blessing of light be on us:
light without and light within.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near', it seems to say,
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb so long expected
offers pardon freely given;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiv'n.

So when next he comes in glory,
and earth's final hour draws near,
faithful may he find his servants,
watching till the dawn appear.

Honour, glory, might and merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

*Words: Anonymous, Latin 6th cent.
Tune: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889). TiS 264*

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now to dream together, pray together, work together,
to build one world of peace and justice for all.

Amen. We go in the light and promise of Christ.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Tocatta in E minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

MUSIC NOTES

The so-called Matin Responsory is in fact an adaption of a Magnificat by Palestrina, together with words from the First Responsory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins, in the early medieval Roman Rite. It has become widely known through its use in the annual Advent Carol Service at King's College, Cambridge. It is sung from the west end of the chapel, before the procession begins to move towards the east end, symbolically from darkness into light.

Paul Manz (1919-2009) was a noted American organist, teacher, lecturer, conductor and scholar, as well as composer. 'E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come' (1953) is probably the most frequently performed of his compositions. The text was adapted by Manz and his wife Ruth from Revelation Chapter 22 in response to a serious illness suffered by their three-year-old son. The anthem begins in B flat minor, but turns at the end to D flat major - reflecting the move from darkness to light celebrated in the seasons of Advent.

*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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