

St Matthew-in-the-City



Christmas Eve 2024
11.30pm

Nau mai, haere mai;
a warm welcome to St Matthew-in-the-City,
a spirited place where people stand, connect,
and seek common ground.

We are glad you have come
to celebrate Christmas
with this community.

We hope that you will find
the Christmas spirit of peace and love
in tonight's celebrations.

Presider: Rev Richard Bonifant

Preacher: Rev Cate Thorn

Organist: Nicholas Forbes

St Matthew's Voices

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

SOLO:

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

CHOIR:

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and meek, and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the loving mother
in whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all should be
mild, obedient, good as he.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Tune: Irby, H. J. Gauntlett (1803-1876), harm. by A. H. Mann; Carols for Choirs I 3

WELCOME

Son of God, light that shines in the dark,
Child of joy and peace,
help us to come to you
and be born anew this holy night.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Liturgist:

As pōhutukawa and rātā bloom
on hillside and seashore
We light the Christ Candle.
Christ, our fragrant summer flower,
may your hope, peace, joy and love
fill all our hillsides and seashores;
may your light shine strongly
in places of violence and injustice
in our world, this day and every day.

We light the Christ Candle. Amen. ¹

Please be seated.

GLORIA

from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

¹ <https://cws.org.nz/get-involved/give/christmas-appeal/for-churches/>

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 shadows light is shining!

Isaiah 9:2

**God of grace and truth,
whose word brings light to birth
in the heart of a darkening world,
which fears a love it cannot name:
may flesh be blessed and born anew
by a truth which leaves the heavens
and walks the waiting earth;
through Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate. Amen.** ²

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:2-7

May we hear angel voices.
May we see the star.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Mārie te pō, tapu te pō
Ka kite nga hepara
Te korōria o te rangi
Me nga ahera Hareruia
Kua whanau te tamaiti
E Ihu te Karaiti**

² *Steven Shakespeare*

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), tr. J. F. Young (1820-1885)
Tune: Silent Night, melody by F. X. Gruber (1787-1863). TIS 311*

We turn to face the Gospel reader.

THE GOSPEL

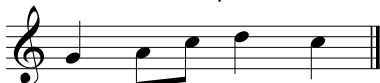
Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Luke,
chapter two, beginning at verse one.



Shine on our path -ways.

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom. ³

REFLECTION

THE ANTHEM

Sussex Carol

Trad., arr. by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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 *

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*Words: French trad., trans. James Chadwick 1860
Tune: Gloria, French Carol melody. The New Century Hymnal 125*

Please be seated.

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

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

Blessed be God forever.

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 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 on this night 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 singing:

Sanctus from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

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.

Benedictus from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

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.

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 āianeī
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.**

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.**

"Hodie Christus natus est" ⁴

Plainchant

⁴ Translation: Today is Christ born; today the Savior has appeared;
today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

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.

We will receive Communion in front of the Altar Table.

Gluten free wafers are available.

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

Te Taro o te Ora. The Bread of Life.

Te Kapu o te Ora. The Cup of Salvation

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Agnus Dei from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Lullay my liking

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

I sing of a maiden

Richard Madden

Love came down at Christmas

Alexander L'Estrange

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Do not be afraid
the light still shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Bear the light of Christ into the world
with hope and great joy!
The love of God,
the light of Christ,
and the joy of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this holy night and forever.
Amen.

FINAL HYMN

**Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

**Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune: Mendelssohn, from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
adapted by William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915). TIS 303*

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now, so the world may know
the wonder and mystery of grace.

Amen. We go in the power of Love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata

(from Symphonie No. 5 in F minor)

Charles-Marie Widor (1845-1937)

Christmas Day service times:
8am Christmas Eucharist
10am Christmas Sung Eucharist

If you want to know more about St Matthew's take a look at our website
<http://www.stmatthews.nz/>, like us on Facebook.

Feel free to take **photos** during our services and share them on
Facebook and Twitter. **No video** recording please.

Toilets are located down the stairs on the left hand side of the church.
An **accessible toilet** is located on the right hand side past the kitchen.

The **Parish Office** is now closed; reopening Monday 13 January 2025.

Sunday services on 29 December, 5, 12, 19, 26 January at 10am only.

Sunday 8am services resume on February 2, 2025

Wednesday 12.20pm services resume on February 5, 2025

Vicar: Rev Richard Bonifant richard@stmatthews.org.nz

Priest Associate: Rev Cate Thorn cate@stmatthews.org.nz

Parish Office **phone:** (09) 379 0625

The service is being live streamed –
the camera only shows the altar area, not the congregation.

*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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