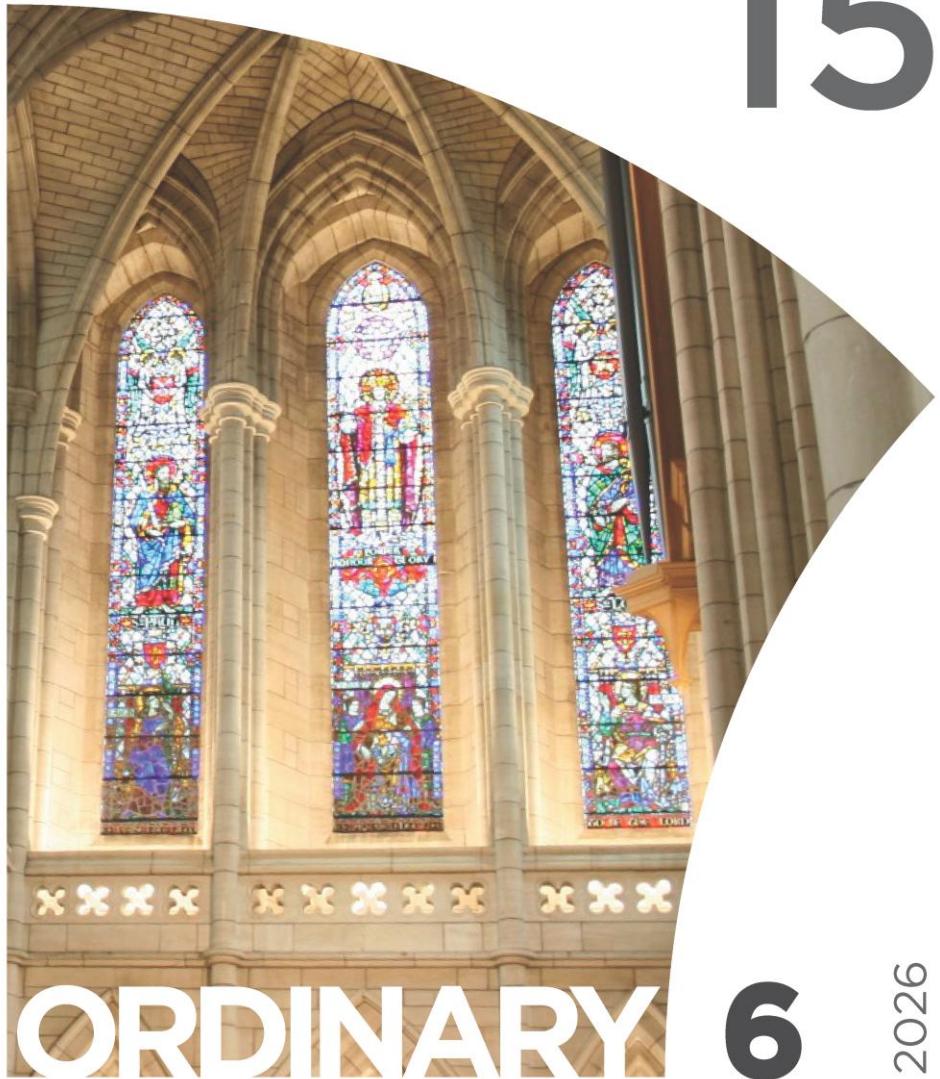




SUNDAY
FEBRUARY
15



2026

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

NOTICES

INTROIT

A new commandment

Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Come to a sacred space with open heart and mind;
come willing to explore and seek a living faith.**

**In this new space, we long to gain
a faith that touches joy and pain.**

**We come with questions deep; we come with answers few,
yet longing for some light to shine upon our quest.**

**We take the risk of losing faith,
yet we can walk no other path.**

**We gently put aside concepts and creeds of old,
yet seek some ancient wisdom that our hearts may hold.
From seeds of doubt, new life may flow,
if given care and space to grow.**

**Finding a bridge of faith that has integrity,
we'll work with all who seek to walk with honesty.
With openness and hearts of grace,
we touch the wisdom of each faith.**

**What do we hold as true? Compassion for each one,
justice and love for ev'ry creature on this earth;
the sacredness of human care;
this is a path that all may share.**

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Tune: Love Unknown, John Nicholson Ireland (1879-1962). TIS 341

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:

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
where God has made a holy dwelling.

God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved;
God will help us at the break of day.¹

BENEDICITE AOTEAROA

O give thanks to God who is good, whose love endures for ever.
Sunrise and sunset, night and day

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You prophets, priests, cleaners and clerks,
professors, programmers, teachers and learners,
seekers, discoverers, drivers and doctors

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You sweepers, diplomats, writers and artists,
grocers, carpenters, students and shop workers,
homemakers, mystics, aid workers and lawyers

Give to God your thanks and praise.

¹Psalm 46:4-5

You Māori, Pākehā, women and men, all who inhabit the long white cloud, all saints and martyrs of the South Pacific



Give to God your thanks and praise.

2

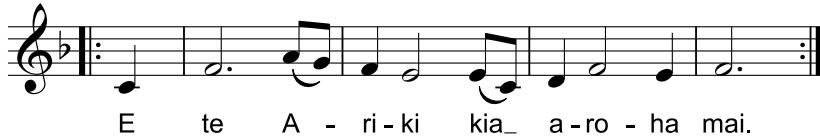
Please be seated.

FORGIVENESS

Liturgist:

We come seeking forgiveness and wholeness for ourselves and for our world.

1st time CANTOR, 2nd time ALL



E te Ariki kia a-ro-ha mai.



E - te - Ka - rai - ti kia a-ro - ha mai.



E te Ariki kia a-ro-ha mai.

[Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy]

Ian Render. Tune: Newlands Road. FFS 13

Silence

**Holy God,
we acknowledge we have resisted the light of your love,
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us,
we have not treasured the gifts of our neighbours.
We are in need of your love.**

Priest:

God our healer whose mercy is like a refining fire:
touch us with your justice and confront us with your tenderness;
that, being forgiven and comforted by you,
we may reach out to a troubled world.

Amen.³

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the way of God.

Psalm 119:1

**Vulnerable God,
you challenge the powers that rule this world
through the needy, the compassionate,
and those who are filled with longing.
Make us hunger and thirst to see right prevail
and single minded in seeking peace and reconciliation.
Amen.**⁴

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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

Thanks be to God.

³*Daily Prayers for All Seasons* p. 15-16

⁴Janet Morley

GRADUAL HYMN

**God! When human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.**

**Through that stillness with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.**

**Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life;
use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.**

**Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God! Encourage and renew!**

Words: Frederik Herman Kaan (1929-2009)

Tune: Love Divine, John Stainer (1840-1901). Tis 217(ii)

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew,
chapter five, beginning at verse twenty-one.



Be a lamp to my feet.

Matthew 5:21-37

This is the Gospel of Christ.



Be a light for my path.

SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

Ubi caritas

Ola Gjeilo

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: Let us gather our hearts and minds in prayer;
prayer for our world and for God's people.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Kia tau te rangimārie o te Atua ki a koutou.

A ki a koe ano hoki.

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

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *

Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.
Now, because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God;
spiced with humour, laced with laughter –
flavour of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer –
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Talavera Terrace, Colin Gibson. AA 127

* 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.



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Blessed are you God of all creation **through your good - ness**

we have these gifts to share. Bless'd be God for-ev - er.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In a city of a thousand strands,
laden with the sights and sounds of God's colourful people,
we meet the Creator and discover the mark of God
in both stranger and friend.

O God of many names, we give you thanks that you are
uniting the people of the city.

In a city of forgotten people and lost stories
help us to listen for your good news
amongst those left out or left behind in the busy rush.

We give thanks for Jeremiah who prayed for the city,
for it is here that we make our home and learn of you.

We give thanks for prophets like Deborah
who challenged the people and their leaders in the town square.

Fill our hearts with an image of your son Jesus
who embraces us all.

In the noise and in the silence, in the traffic and at home
we give thanks for his liberating presence as we sing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of prom - ise and ful -



fil - ment, Heav-en and Earth a -bound with your grace.



Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, all cre-a-tion sings.



Bless'd is the One who comes in the name of God.



Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, all cre-a-tion sings.

The city was crowded with people from across the world,
the faithful gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover:
the festival of freedom.

Jesus and his friends rented a room above a busy street,
and there they shared a last meal together.

In the quiet of the night Jesus took a piece of bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:

‘This is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.’
When everyone had finished eating

Jesus took a cup of Passover wine, gave thanks and said:

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood;
do this to remember me.’⁶

God here a - mong us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light, bring us to life.

Send your Holy Spirit that we who receive this bread
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share this cup draw strength from the one true vine.
For you dwell in the heavenly city and make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

Praise, praise, glo - ry and love be yours, this and ev -'ry day,
from us and all peo - ple, here and ev -'ry- where.
A - - - men. A - - - men.

Please be seated.

⁶ Chris Shannahan [2008], adapted

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

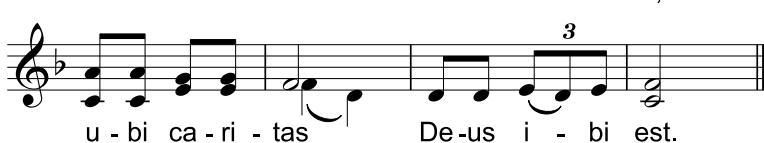
The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

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

We sing three times:



U - bi - ca - ri - tas et a - mor,



u - bi - ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi - est.
3

Taizé, Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

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

Teach me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

All creatures of our God

William H. Harris (1883-1973)

Love divine

Howard Goodall

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We bless you, generous God
abiding in every part of the city,
in each other, and in the stranger, who waits with us
for a place at the table of life.
May we also learn the way to make room for all. Amen.⁷**

⁷ Jenny Blood (1932-2022)

BLESSING

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half truths and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life,
be with you this day and always. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

**Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation,
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;
sun of delight succeeds the velvet of night,
warming the earth's exultation.**

**Sing for God's power that shatters the chains that would bind us,
searing the darkness of fear and despair that could blind us,
touching our shame with love that will not lay blame,
reaching out gently to find us.**

**Sing for God's justice disturbing each easy illusion,
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;
lifeblood of right, resisting evil and slight,
offering freedom's transfusion.**

**Sing for God's saints who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who, in our weariness, give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see the new creation to be,
Spirit of love made flesh for us.**

*Words: Kathy Galloway
Tune: Lobe den Herren, later form of a chorale melody
in the 'Stralsund Gesangbuch', 1665. TIS 111*

Deacon from the rear of the Church.

May the streets of our city be holy ground under your feet.
Go into the city, walking in faith and hope.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Introduction and Toccata "Lasst uns erfreuen"

Nicholas Choveaux (1904-1995)

MUSIC NOTES

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 the text." *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.*

Thomas Attwood was appointed organist of St Paul's Cathedral in 1796 and is buried there. The anthem *Teach me, O Lord* demonstrates a delightful simplicity which has stood the test of time, although was not to everyone's taste. One commentator wrote, "[The cathedral organist] considers himself as a first-rate performer, and persuades other people that he is so too, and on the strength of this he inflicts upon the congregation long voluntaries, interludes, which consist either of his own vulgar imagination, or selections from the last new opera." Attwood was a pupil of Mozart and owned a large house on Beulah Hill in South London, where Mendelssohn, a good friend, was a visitor.

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 Matthew Howes

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