

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER

14



ADVENT

3

2025

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

## NOTICES

## INTROIT

*O Clavis David;  
O Rex Gentium*

*Great O Antiphons*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**The Baptist shouts on Jordan's shore,  
the earth shakes with the mighty roar,  
awake, let lazy sleep now flee:  
behold, the voice of prophecy!**

**The earth and sky and sea now feel  
that which their Author will reveal:  
the Child now leaping in the womb  
as God does human form assume.**

**Clean up your hearts, lay down the way,  
for God approaches day by day;  
prepare for such a worthy heir,  
for such a guest your house prepare.**

**O One who comes to set us free,  
O Child, to you our song will be,  
with Father, Spirit mothering,  
to you shall praise for ever ring!**

*Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)*

*Tune: Winchester New, melody adapted by William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)  
from a chorale in the 'Musikalisches Hand-Buch', Hamburg, 1690. TiS 270*

# 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.** <sup>1</sup>

## 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.** <sup>2</sup>

*Please be seated.*

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<sup>1</sup> Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days", adapted

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

# RECONCILIATION

*Liturgist:*

When hope 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.**

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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system concludes the piece with a final vocal phrase and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The vocal part is a simple melody that follows the lyrics. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign, with a '3' below the piano staff indicating a final measure.

*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

To meet a human being  
is an opportunity to sense the image of God,  
the presence of God.

*Abraham Heschel*

**God you are always' becoming',  
always just 'a little more,'  
always just beyond our reach,  
yet we are glad we are expected to keep looking for you,  
to see you and meet you in unexpected places,  
proclaiming boldly the signs of your presence.  
Amen.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

Let us wait,  
**and hope in God.**

# GRADUAL HYMN

**A shoot has sprung from Jesse's tree;  
of God the Chosen One;  
A branch of knowledge and of truth;  
a gift of love has come!**

**With love the poor will be received;  
the proud will turn aside;  
And faithfulness will be a path,  
and righteousness the guide!**

**The wolf shall lie down with the lamb;  
the calf and lion play.  
God's peace shall dwell within the land;  
a child shall show the way!**

*Words: Anne McKinstry  
Tune: St Columba, Irish traditional hymn melody, TIS 523*

# THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew,  
chapter eleven, beginning at verse two.



Shine on our path -ways.

*Matthew 11:2-11*

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom.

# SERMON

## ANTHEM

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come*

*Paul Otto Manz (1919-2009)*

## 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 \*

Our Christ will come and not be slow,  
his footsteps cannot err;  
before him righteousness shall go,  
the royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,  
shall bud and blossom then,  
and justice from her heavenly bower  
look down on mortals then.

Rise, God, to show us all what's right,  
what actions to redress;  
for you are God who shall by right  
the nations all possess.

For great you are, and actions great  
by your strong arms are done:  
you by your everlasting love  
remain our God alone.

*Words: John Milton (1608-1674), adapted  
Tune: William Jones (1726-1800). CAHO&N*

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\* *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

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

Musical notation for the phrase "Bless-ed be God for ev - er." The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There are two triplets marked with a '3' and a bracket: the first triplet covers the first three notes (G, A, B), and the second triplet covers the next three notes (A, G, F#). The lyrics "Bless-ed be God for ev - er." are written below the staff.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Cantor* *All*

Musical notation for the phrase "Hope is a-mong us. We are God's light." The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half), D4 (half). The lyrics "Hope is a-mong us. We are God's light." are written below the staff.

*Cantor* *All*

Musical notation for the phrase "Shine then with free-dom into all the cor-ners of the world." The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half), D4 (half). The lyrics "Shine then with free-dom into all the cor-ners of the world." are written below the staff.

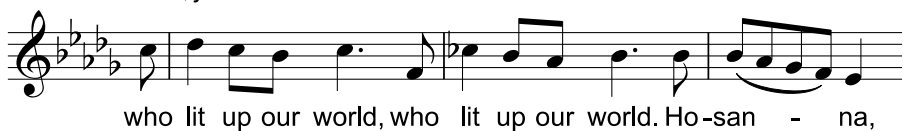
*Cantor* *All*

Musical notation for the phrase "Lest fear overcome the bril-liance of life and light and lib-er-ty." The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half), D4 (half). The lyrics "Lest fear overcome the bril-liance of life and light and lib-er-ty." are written below the staff.

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 inspire us.

Jesus was promised to 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 his grace:



On the night that he was betrayed,  
your Son Christ Jesus,  
gathered with his 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.



The musical notation is written on three staves in a single system, using a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'We of - fer bread to eat with eyes and hands held'. The second staff contains 'o - pen. We pass this cup to share. We take, break,'. The third staff contains 'bless and give kind-ling hope ev' - ry where.' and ends with a double bar line. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final whole note.

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;  
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 be for us  
the body and blood of Christ.

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 meal that welcomes all.

**All honour and glory be yours,  
for ever and ever. Amen.** <sup>4</sup>

*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 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.**

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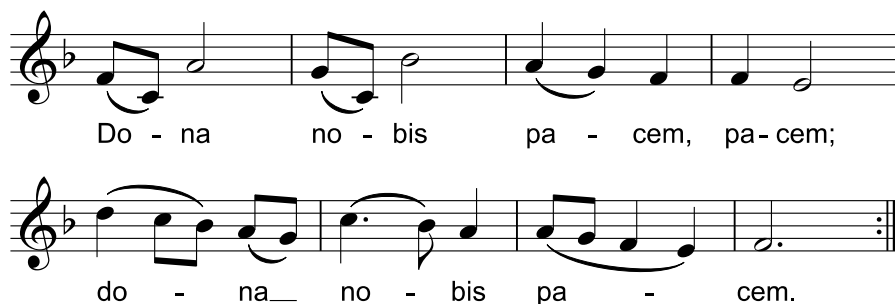
<sup>4</sup> Steven Shakespeare *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, adapted

# 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):*



## 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

*How lovely are the messengers  
(from St. Paul, Op. 36)*

*Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)*

*O Radiant Dawn*

*James MacMillan*

*The Spirit of the Lord*

*Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Priest:*

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

**We are thankful that through faith,  
hope will sustain us,  
love will companion us,  
and light will guide us.  
May the blessing of light be upon us:  
this day and always. Amen.**

## BLESSING

May God keep you safe.  
May your bellies be full.  
May your thirst be quenched.  
May your hearts be blessed.  
Know that you are loved  
and may you share that love  
with all who come your way.  
And the blessing of God,  
Creating, Redeeming, and Giving us Life,  
be with you, this day and always.  
**Amen.**

## FINAL HYMN

**Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
hidden now in mystery,  
nature bursts with joyful promise,  
ripe with what is yet to be.  
In a wealth of rich invention,  
still the work of art unfolds:  
barely have we seen, and faintly,  
what God's great salvation holds.**

**Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
making Jesus seen and heard.  
Every age of God's creation  
grasps new meaning from the Word.  
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us  
your new work begun today:  
eyes and ears and hearts are open,  
teach us what to do and say.**

**Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
all God's children brought to birth,  
freed from hunger, fear and evil  
every corner of the earth,  
and a million, million voices  
speak with joy the Saviour's name;  
every face reflects his image,  
never any two the same.**

**Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,  
nothing shall be left to chance.  
All that lives will be united  
in the everlasting dance.  
All fulfilled and all perfected,  
each uniquely loved and known,  
Christ in glory unimagined  
once for all receives his own.**

*Words: Marnie Barrell*

*Tune: Nettleton, American folk melody from 'A Repository of Sacred Music', Part 2  
harm. John Wilson (1905-1992). TIS 392*

*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

*Finale from "Music for the Royal Fireworks", HWV 351*

*George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*

## MUSIC NOTES

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.

How lovely are the messengers was written by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy for his oratorio St. Paul. The text is based on Romans 10: 15,18. It was composed by Mendelssohn between 1834 and 1836 and first performed at the Lower Rhine Festival in Düsseldorf on May 22 of that year.

James MacMillan's O Radiant Dawn, one of his Strathclyde motets, sets an Advent antiphon with the composer's characteristic directness and emotional depth. Luminous harmonies, subtle dissonances, and a rising melodic arc evoke longing for light and renewal. The work's restraint and warmth showcase MacMillan's distinctive blend of modern harmonic language and contemplative Scottish Catholic spirituality.

Edward Elgar's stirring anthem The Spirit of the Lord is the prologue to his oratorio The Apostles, which tells the story of the disciples of Jesus and their reactions to the extraordinary events they witness on the first Pentecost through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The words are from Isaiah 61:1, echoed by Christ in the Temple in Luke 4.

*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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