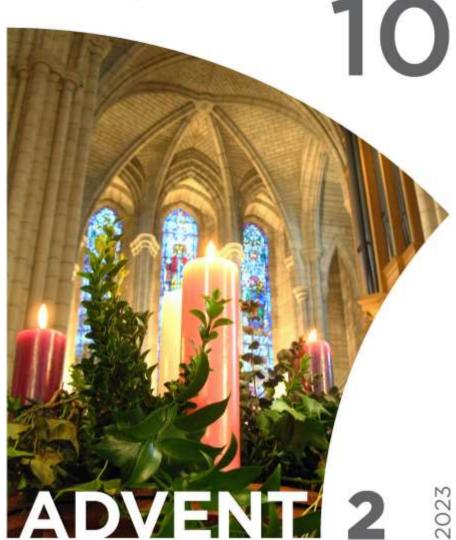


SUNDAY DECEMBER



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

INTROIT

O Radix Jesse
O Clavis David

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.

Through you, O Jesus, you alone salvation, solace, strength are known; without your love we fade like grass, like wilted flowers our lives will pass.

Your hands extend, our pain embrace, lift up the prostrate, show your face; though we in part your beauty know, o blossom forth, your splendor show.

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

WFI COMF

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 PEACE

As kānuka come to bloom, in this season of the flowering we light the candle of peace.

As we prepare for the birth of the Peace Child, may the flower of peace, grow from the seed of justice, in our lives and in God's hurting world.

We light the Advent candle of peace. Amen.²

Please be seated.

Dorothy McDao McMahar

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

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

RECONCILIATION

Liturgist:

When peace 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.

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.

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³ Taizé

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

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Ps 85:10-11

Come Holy Spirit, to all baptised in your name: give us passion, give us fire, help us transform the world to what you created it to be; following the voice of John the Baptist crying in the wilderness, leading us to you, Amen. 4

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Let us wait, and hope in God.

⁴ NZPB p 618 adapted

GRADUAL HYMN





THE GOSPEL

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



Mark 1:1-8

This is the Gospel of Christ.



THE SERMON

SILENCE

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

Magnificat in B flat (Third Service)

Philip Moore

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.

OFFFRTORY HYMN *

Christ, your sun is rising, and our hearts surprising, source of all befriending, spirit never-ending.

We may find you living, present in all giving, human face of loving, faithful in your moving.

In all pain and pleasure you discern our measure, welcoming the stranger, facing every danger.

Take away all sorrow, bless a new tomorrow, guide our liberation, join in celebration.

Words: Jenny Blood (1932-2022)

Tune: Ravenshaw, melody by William Henry Monk (1823-1889). TiS 427

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 OR code:



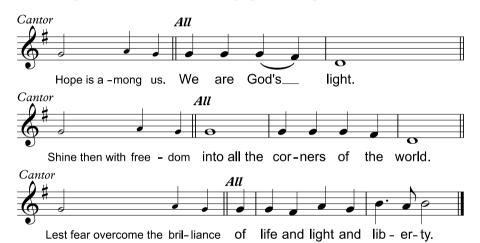
^{*} During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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- 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.

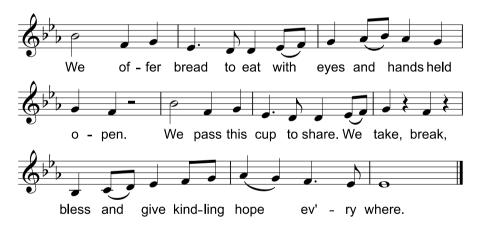
Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

'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.



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

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 ājanei

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:

Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te kororia, Āke, ake, Āmine.

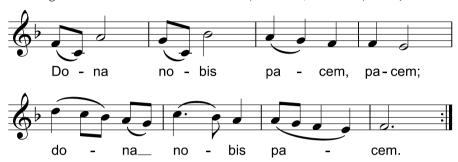
⁵ Steven Shakespeare Prayers for an Inclusive Church, adapted

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):



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

Canite tuba

Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)

How beautiful upon the mountains

John Stainer (1840-1901)

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

Hills of the North, rejoice; river and mountain-spring, hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland sing. Christ comes in righteousness and love, he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas, sing to the listening earth, carry on every breeze hope of a world's new birth: in Christ shall all be made anew, his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise, he is your brightest morn, greet him with joyous eyes, praise shall his path adorn: your seers have longed to know their Lord; to you he comes, the final word. Shores of the utmost West, lands of the setting sun, welcome the heavenly guest in whom the dawn has come: he brings a never-ending light who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home, songs be in every mouth, lo, from the North they come, from East and West and South: in Jesus shall all find their rest, in him the universe is blest.

Words: based on C. E. Oakley (1832-1865). Tune: Little Cornard, M. Shaw (1875-1958). TiS 469

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

Thema Met Variaties

Hendrik Andriessen (1892-1981)

MUSIC NOTES

Francisco Guerrero was a Spanish Catholic priest and Renaissance composer who worked and died in Seville. Canite tuba is a motet for the fourth Sunday of Advent and draws its text from the first and third antiphons at Vespers. As befits its opening words, 'Blow the trumpet in Zion, for the day of the Lord is nigh', the motet begins strongly with a vocal fanfare in an extroverted manner, turning to a quieter and more reflective style for the pleading words 'come, Lord, and do not delay.'

Sir John Stainer was a significant figure in the musical life of Victorian England. He was one of the best organists of his generation and a superb improviser. He helped raise the standards of cathedral music-making and made St Paul's Cathedral, where he was appointed organist in 1872, a centre for contemporary music. How beautiful upon the mountains is an extract from a larger work, Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion, a saints' day anthem that was written in 1871.

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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