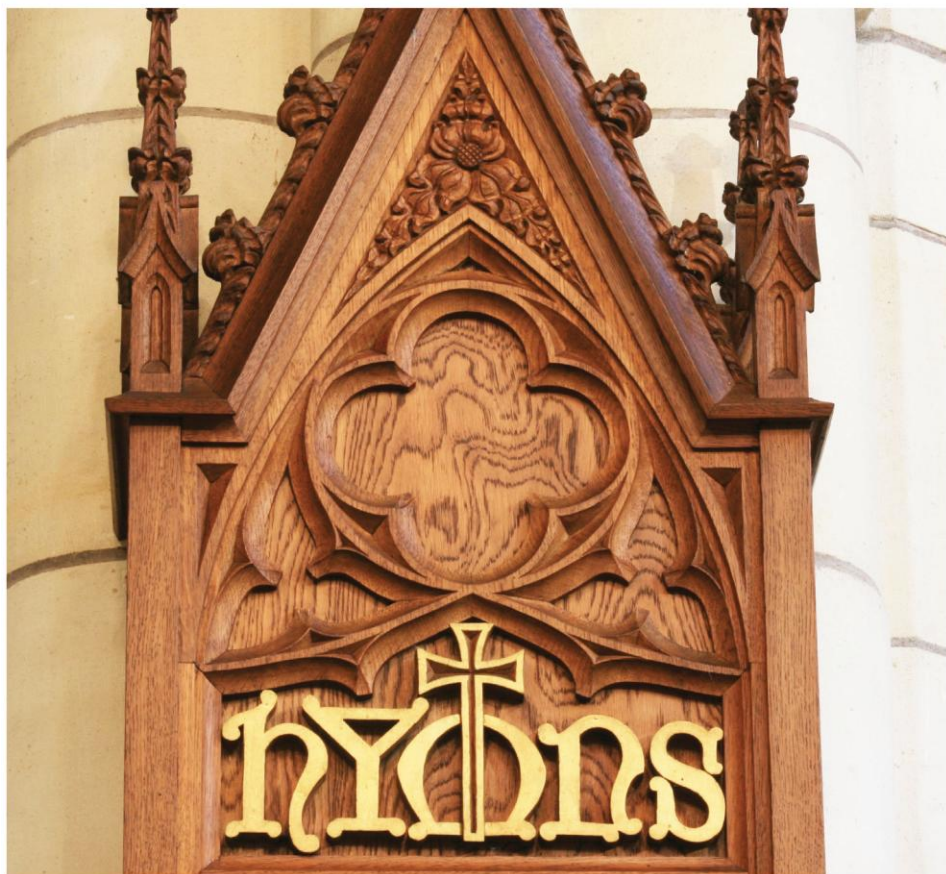




A spirited place
where people stand,
connect and seek
common ground

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
18
2026



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**For the music of creation,
for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression,
burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the world's composer,
hear us, echoes of your voice:
music is your art, your glory,
let the human heart rejoice!**

**Psalms and symphonies exalt you,
drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you,
tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging,
carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and lovesong
catching heaven in a note.**

**All the voices of the ages
in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses,
hands that praise and dancing feet;
over discord and division
music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven,
song of God that cannot cease!**

*Text: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Lux Eoi, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900). CAHO&N 9*

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.

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.

Please be seated.

¹ Psalm 46:4

FORGIVENESS

Liturgist:

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

1st time CANTOR, 2nd time ALL



E te A - ri - ki kia_ a - ro - ha mai.

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

E te A - ri - ki 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.²

² *Daily Prayers for All Seasons p 15-16*

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's,
and to God the things that are God's.

Matthew 22:21

**Loving God,
you have created each one of us in your own image.
And so we offer ourselves to you
the one whose image is imprinted on every soul. Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the First Epistle to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**E te Atua, kua ruia nei;
Ō purapura pai:
hōmai e koe he ngakau hou,
kia tupu ake ai.**

**E Ihu, kua e tukua
Kia whakangaromia,
me whakatupu ake ia,
kia kitea ai ngā hua.**

**A mā te Wairua Tapu rā
mātou e tiaki,
kei hoki ki te mahi he
Ō mātou ngākau hōu. Amine.** ³

Text: Traditional Maori Hymn

*Tune: For all the mercies, traditional Maori melody,
harm. Jillian Margaret Bray (1939-2018). WOV 650*

³ O God, sown is your good seed. Give us a new heart to make it grow. O Jesus, do not let it go, do not let it be destroyed; let it grow so that the fruits may be seen. May the Holy Spirit keep us, lest evil deeds return to our new heart.

THE GOSPEL

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

Be a lamp to my feet.

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5 tied to the next measure. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Matthew: 22:15-22

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Be a light for my path. 4

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and a half note D5 tied to the next measure. The piece ends with a double bar line.

SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

Just as I am

Bob Chilcott

⁴ Music by Michael CW Bell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist:

We stand to affirm our faith.

**God is with us, this we believe.
For we have seen the signs of grace
in every time and every place.**

**The beauty of the creation,
in all its wonder,
is not the only home of the Creator.**

**Our God is born in cities as well as stables,
is found in holy places
and the marketplace
and sits with us in cafés and under bridges
and joins with buskers singing hopeful songs
on the streets of this day.**

**The Spirit dances on concrete
and holds in comfort
those who walk with briefcases and shopping bags.
The God who is more than we can ever name or know
is beside us in every place.⁵**

Please be seated.

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.

⁵Adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, "Liturgies for Pausing" p. 4

OFFERTORY HYMN *

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure:
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone:
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears human lives away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), Psalm 90:1-6

*Tune: St Anne, melody from 'A Supplement the the New Version', 1708 probably by
William Croft (1678-1727). TIS 47*

* 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

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

All: Blessed be God forever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest: The Spirit is here.

All: God's hope is in us.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

All: It is right to offer thanks and praise.

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.

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 and welcomes us all.

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

**Holy, holy, holy One,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Bless the One who comes in the power of love.
Hosanna in the highest!**

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.’

He meets the needs of a hungry city.

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.’

He quenches our thirst as we search for a holy city. ⁶

Break the bread for freedom.

Pour the wine for justice.

Celebrate this meal for all the world.

A meal of faith and hope,

God’s love, shared among us.

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.

Blessing and honour and glory be yours,

here and everywhere, now and for ever.

Amen.

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 āiane i 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.

Taizé, Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kāhui a te Atua,
tangohia ēnei 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

O Lord increase our faith

Henry Loosemore (1600–1670)

King of glory, King of peace

J. S. Bach, arr. by W. H. Harris

A Prayer from South Africa

James Whitbourn

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

Go now as faithful witnesses to God's kindness
and may those who have little be blessed with abundance,
those who have much be blessed with generosity
and may the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life
be with you all this day and always.

Amen.

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

**Forth in your name, O God, I go,
my daily labour to pursue,
you, God, alone resolved to know,
in all I think, or speak, or do.**

**Each task your wisdom has assigned
still let me cheerfully fulfil,
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.**

**You may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance view,
and labour on at your command,
and offer all my works to you.**

**Give me to bear your easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to your glorious day;**

**for you delightfully employ
all that your bounteous grace has given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with you to heaven.**

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune: Song 34, arr. from melody and bass of Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625). TIS 571

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

Apparition de l'église éternelle (excerpts) Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

MUSIC NOTES

Bob Chilcott is a former member of the King's Singers, and one of the UK's most popular choral composers. His setting of Just as I am opens with a simplicity and innocence created by a beautiful melody. The texture gradually evolves as the other voices make their entries. Charlotte Elliott's text states her own personal search for God and her belief in a Gospel of pardon, peace, and heaven.

'King of glory, king of peace' is an arrangement by William Harris of the Lutheran choral Jesu, meines Hertzens Freund, harmonised by J.S. Bach in several of his sacred vocal works. The words, by George Herbert, are also a well-known hymn. Harris was for many years Organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where he taught music to the teenage Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

James Whitbourn is a British choral composer. A graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, his career in music began in the BBC, for whom he has worked as composer, conductor, producer and presenter. His compositional output is admired for its direct connection with performers and audiences worldwide and for its ability to "expand the experience of classical music beyond the edges of the traditional map of classical styles" (Tom Manoff, NPR). He is Fellow and Director of Music at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and a member of the Faculty of Music in the University of Oxford. A Prayer from South Africa was commissioned by Chris, Mary, Gregory and Dominic Chivers for Dominic Chivers on the occasion of his confirmation, Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2009 at Blackburn Cathedral, for performance by Blackburn Cathedral Choir directed by Richard Tanner. The author, Alan Stewart Paton (1903-1988) was a South African writer and anti-apartheid activist. His works include the novels Cry, the Beloved Country, Too Late the Phalarope and the narrative poem The Wasteland.

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