St Matthew in-the-City

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

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

2026



32nd 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

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word indeed has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts…

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts…

Longing for shelter, people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts…

Text: Bernadette Farrell, adapted
Tune: Christ, be our light, Bernadette Farrell..

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



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



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



[1] *Psalm 46:4*

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



Please be seated.

FORGIVENESS

Liturgist:

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

1st time CANTOR, 2nd time ALL



[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]

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

God our desire,
whose coming we look for,
but whose arrival is unexpected;
here in this place
may we long to greet you,
that we may be known by you.
Amen. [3]

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Amos.

Amos 5:18-24

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

Thanks be to God.

---

[2] *Daily Prayers for All Seasons p 15-16*
[3] *Janet Morley, adapted*

GRADUAL HYMN

Arahina, e Ihowā,
Tō pononga i te ao:
Whakakitea mai tōu kaha,
Puritia rā au e koe
A whāngainga, A whāngainga
Ki te kai e ora ai,
Ki te kai e ora ai.

Whakahekea mai te puna
Hei horoi mō te hara.
Tukua ko te kapua mura,
Hei ārahi i ahau;
Tēnei hoki, Tēnei hoki,
Whakakahangia e koe,
Whakakahangia e koe.

Whakamāmākia e koe
Tō te mate takiwā;
Whakawhitia tō pononga
I ngā wai o Horano;
Whakauria, Whakauria
Ki te wā o Kenana;
Ki te wā o Kenana! [4]

Text: Traditional Maori Version
Tune: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932). TiS 569

---

[4] Guide me as a pilgrim and feed me; wash me and lead me, strengthen me; allay my fears and bring me safe to Canaan across the Jordan.

THE GOSPEL

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



Matthew: 25:1-13

This is the Gospel of Christ.



[5]

SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

Vigilate *William Byrd (1540–1623)*

[5] *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. [6]

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.

---

[6] *Adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, "Liturgies for Pausing" p. 4*

OFFERTORY HYMN *

**Within our lives are seams of gold,
talents to stir; gifts to unfold.
Within our lives, the sacred gives
a call to life we've yet to live.**

**Within our hearts are joys to share,
deep love to give and gentle care;
the gift of grace forgiveness makes:
within our hearts, the sacred wakes.**

**Within our minds are words that live,
reflections wise with hope to give,
and embers stirred, a fire that glows:
within our minds, the sacred grows.**

**Within our souls are myst'ries deep,
joys given life and hopes that leap,
visions newborn and given wings:
within our souls, the sacred sings.**

**Within each heart and soul and mind
are dreams for earth and humankind,
new ways to live with paths untrod:
a sacred space infused by God.**

Text: Helen Wiltshire
Tune: Bow Brickhill, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947). TiS 139

---

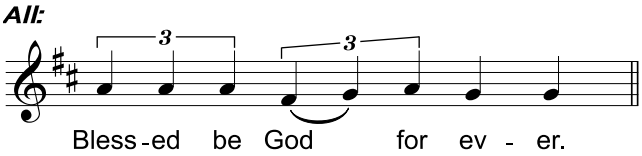
* *During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.*
For electronic giving options:

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.*

DONATE

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



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.

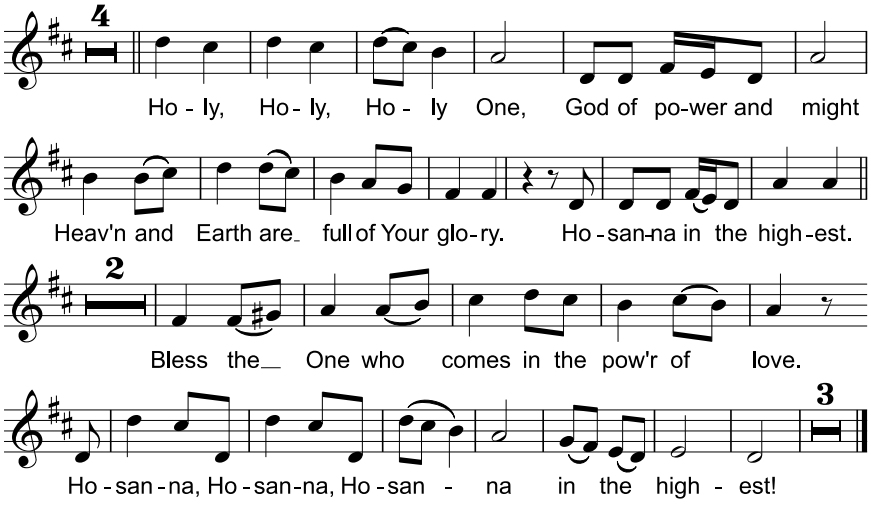
God of many names, we give you thanks that you are
uniting the people of the city.

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 sing:



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.' [7]



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.



Please be seated.

[7] *Chris Shannahan [2008], adapted*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e to tātou Ariki, ka inoi tātou:

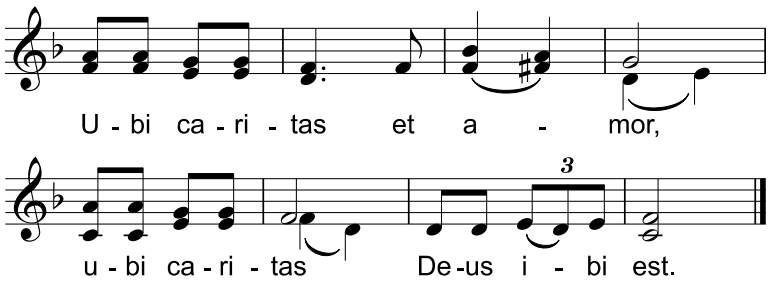
E tō mātou Matua i te rangi,
kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āianei he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
Murua ō mātou hara,
me mātou hoki e muru nei,
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Aua hoki 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:



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 share in communion.*

Gluten-free *wafers are available; please ask the serving priest.*

If you are unable to come to the ***High Altar****, please sit in a front pew, and communion will be brought to you.*

A small chalice is available for those who are ***immunocompromised****.*

A separate chalice is available for ***dipping the bread****.*
To indicate this preference, simply hold your bread in front of you.

If you prefer not to receive from a chalice,
receiving the ***bread alone*** *is a complete communion.*

If you do not wish to receive communion,
you are welcome to come forward for a ***blessing****.*

Te Taro o te Ora. The bread of life.

Te Kapu o te Ora. The cup of salvation.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Sleepers, Wake! — *Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–1847)*

Keep your lamps! — *Spiritual, arr. by André Thomas*

The call of wisdom — *Will Todd*

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. [8]

---

[8] *Jenny Blood (1932-2022)*

BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

Let justice roll down like a river,
let justice roll down like a sea,
let justice roll down like a river,
let justice begin through me.

Justice for all who go hungry,
crying to God to be fed,
left in a world of abundance
to beg for a morsel of bread.

Let justice roll down like a river…

Justice for those who are homeless,
victims of warfare or need,
trapped on the borders of nowhere,
lost in the canyons of greed.

Let justice roll down like a river…

Justice for all who are powerless,
yearning for freedom in vain,
plundered, and robbed of their birthright,
silently bearing their pain.

Let justice roll down like a river…

Text and Tune: Colin Gibson. AA 85

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

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

MUSIC NOTES

“The many clear borrowings from the Italian madrigal tradition that colour William Byrd’s lively Vigilate (probably dating from early in his career) suggest it was perhaps aimed at less directly religious circles, and could even be interpreted as a warning to his fellow recusant Catholics to ‘keep watch’ against spies. The word-painting throughout is vivid and detailed; listen for the ascending motif at ‘an galli cantu’ representing a cock crowing, the slowing harmonic pulse and lulling suspensions that accompany the sleeping faithful at ‘dormientes’, and the sudden coming together of the voice parts at ‘omnibus dico’ (‘I say to all’).” (from notes by Owain Park © 2018)

Translation:

Watch ye therefore (for you know not when the lord of the house cometh,

at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning):

Watch therefore, lest coming on a sudden, he find you sleeping.

And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch. (Mark 13: 35-37)

Given Felix Mendelssohn’s high regard for the choral masterpieces of Bach, Handel and Haydn, it is no surprise to find that his oratorio on the life of St Paul is modelled on similar lines, with an integrated scheme of recitatives, arias and choruses. His use of chorales to demarcate important points in the story and to reflect on the action is clearly influenced by the music in Bach's great Passions. One of Bach’s favourite chorales, 'Wachet auf' (Sleepers, wake), is heard at the very beginning of the overture and later on in this chorus.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning is a traditional gospel blues song, that may derive from an African-American work song. It alludes to the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, found in the gospel of Matthew 25:1-13. The song has been variously attributed to Blind Willie Johnson, who recorded it in 1928; to Reverend Gary Davis, who recorded it in 1956; and to Mississippi Fred McDowell, who recorded it in 1959. It is arranged by the celebrated American conductor André Thomas, who served as professor of music at the College of Music at Florida State University and the artistic director for the Tallahassee Community Chorus.

Will Todd is an contemporary English musician and composer, who regularly performs in his own compositions, which have ranged from operas and cantatas to a clarinet concerto and a choral symphony. His jazz mass 'Mass in Blue' is widely performed. The Call of Wisdom is a setting of a text by Michael Hampel, based on Proverbs 8. It was commissioned for the Diamond Jubilee service at St. Paul's Cathedral in 2012, in the presence of HM The Queen.

*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.

Hymns reproduced with permission under CCLI licence 637264
Hymns and music livestreamed with permission under CCLI licence 1483113