



SUNDAY  
DECEMBER

24



ADVENT 4

2023

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

## INTROIT

*O Emmanuel*

*O Virgo Virginum*

*Great O Antiphons*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The people that in darkness walked  
have seen a glorious light;  
the light has shined on them who dwelt  
in death's surrounding night.

To hail you, Sun of righteousness,  
the gathering nations come:  
rejoicing as when reapers bear  
their harvest treasures home.

To us a child of hope is born,  
to us a Son is given;  
him shall the tribes of earth obey,  
him all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
for evermore adored;  
most Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread,  
his reign no end shall know:  
justice shall guard his throne above  
and peace abound below.

*Words: John Morison (1750-1798) vv. 3-5 and compilers vv. 1-2  
Tune: St Botolph, Gordon Archbold Slater (1896-1979). TIS 223*

# 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 LOVE

As a summer solstice sun rises in the eastern sky,  
as berries ripen,  
and the fragrance of mānuka blooms fill the warm air,  
we light the candle of love.

**May the fire and fragrance of God's love,**  
transform our world,

so that the hungry are fed,  
so that the lowly are lifted up,  
so that all the community of life can flourish.

**We light the Advent candle of love. 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/>

# RECONCILIATION

*Liturgist:*

When love 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.

3

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: '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 score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign, with a '3' below it.

*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

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”

*Luke 1:46*

Mysterious Presence, here in our midst,  
disclosing the secret hidden  
in the deep places of our heart,  
for whom we wait, for whom we listen.  
May we hear your voice and respond to your invitation  
and, like Mary, embrace your will,  
welcoming your incarnation in our flesh.  
We pray this through the One  
in whose constant coming we trust,  
whose day is always near. Amen. <sup>4</sup>

## THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

*Romans 16:25-27*

Let us wait,  
and hope in God.

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<sup>4</sup> *Jim Cotter*

# GRADUAL HYMN

Not the powerful, nor the privileged,  
not the famous in the land,  
but the no-ones and the needy  
were the first to hold God's hand.

Not a well established family  
with an heirloom christening shawl,  
but a homeless, wandering couple  
parented the Lord of All.

Not, at first, to little children,  
nor to those whose faith burned bright,  
But to adults, stalled in darkness,  
angels brought God's love and light.

God, determined to be different  
from the standards we think best,  
in his choice of friends and family,  
lets forgotten folk be blessed.

Not obsessed by our achievements,  
worldly wealth or family tree,  
may we, in and with God's chosen,  
find our fondest pedigree.

*Words: John L Bell 1949-*

*Tune: Omni Die, melody from David Gregor Corner's 'Gesangbuch', Nürnberg, 1631  
arr. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895). TIS 101*

# THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke,  
chapter one, beginning at verse twenty-six.



Shine on our path -ways.

*Luke 1:26-38*

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom.

# THE SERMON

# SILENCE

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

*Magnificat*

*Rosemary Russell*

# 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 \*

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation and Saviour of all  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray  
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless Ave  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

*Words: Paraphrased from The Venerable Bede by Andrew Carter*

*Tune: Traditional French, Grenoble 1882.*

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\* *During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.*

*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 QR code:*





# 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 first part of the song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4. The first three notes (F#4, G4, A4) are grouped with a bracket and a '3' above them, indicating a triplet. The last three notes (B4, A4, G4) are also grouped with a bracket and a '3' above them, indicating another triplet. The lyrics 'Bless-ed be God for ev - er.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'ed' and 'ev - er'.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Cantor* *All*

Musical notation for the first line of the second song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4. The last three notes (B4, A4, G4) are grouped with a bracket and a '3' above them, indicating a triplet. The lyrics 'Hope is a - mong us. We are God's light.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'a - mong' and 'light'.

*Cantor* *All*

Musical notation for the second line of the second song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4. The last three notes (B4, A4, G4) are grouped with a bracket and a '3' above them, indicating a triplet. The lyrics 'Shine then with free - dom into all the cor - ners of the world.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'free - dom' and 'cor - ners'.

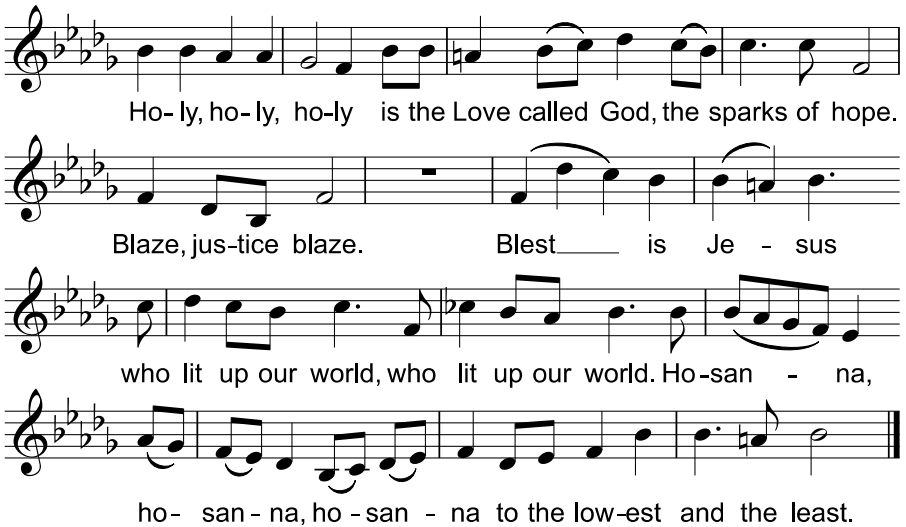
*Cantor* *All*

Musical notation for the third line of the second song. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of eighth notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4. The last three notes (B4, A4, G4) are grouped with a bracket and a '3' above them, indicating a triplet. The lyrics 'Lest fear overcome the bril - liance of life and light and lib - er - ty.' are written below the notes, with hyphens under 'bril - liance' and 'lib - er - ty'.

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-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Love called God, the sparks of hope.

Blaze, jus-tice blaze. Blest is Je - sus

who lit up our world, who lit up our world. Ho-san - na,

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.

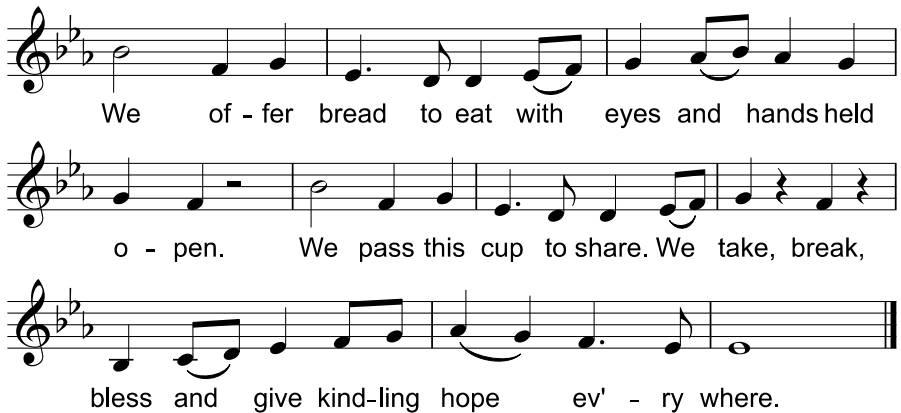
Calling them to his table,  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

'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.



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;  
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  
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.** <sup>5</sup>

*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 **ā**ianeī

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>5</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):*

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem;  
do - na no - bis pa - cem.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the prayer, with lyrics 'Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem;'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'do - na no - bis pa - cem.'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

# 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

*There is no rose*

*John Joubert (1927-2019)*

*Angelus ad Virginem*

*Arranged by Andrew Carter*

# 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

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness that I've heard**  
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice:  
**tender to me the promise of God's Word;**  
in God, my Chosen, shall my heart rejoice.

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name:**  
**make known God's might, the deeds God's arm has done;**  
**God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;**  
**God's holy name, Creator, Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might;**  
powers and dominions lay their glory by:  
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's Word;**  
**firm is God's promise, and God's mercy sure.**  
**Tell out, my soul, the greatness that I've heard:**  
**to children's children and for evermore.**

*Words: adapted by Timothy Dudley-Smith  
Tune: Woodlands, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949). TIS 161*

*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

*Ceremonial March*

*Herbert Sumsion (1889-1995)*

## MUSIC NOTES

Rosemary Russell grew up in a musical vicarage family, primarily singing hymns. At eight years old, she was exposed to the choral music of the Auckland Cathedral under Sir Peter Godfrey. Rosemary was a foundation member of the Festival Singers of Wellington in 1976 and worked for over 20 years as a secondary school music teacher, at Tawa Primary School and Queen Margaret College. She is currently engaged in many musical pursuits, including singing, playing the piano, conducting and composing. 'Magnificat' was written in 1996 for the Festival Singers, originally as a solo song from a musical called The Last Word, which "explored the words of Jesus and the impact these had on his contemporaries and today."

The fourteenth century Irish carol Angelus ad virginem has been made into a cheerful arrangement by Andrew Carter. The bright organ introduction, recalling peals of bells, is answered by the choir who sing the Latin hymn which tells the story of the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, found in the first Chapter of the Gospel according to Luke. In the fourth verse the sings split into two groups, one choir provides the accompaniment whilst the other sings the melody before all join together for the thrilling conclusion.

*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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