



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

SUNDAY
OCTOBER

2026 **4**



FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**All creatures of our God and light,
lift up your voice with all your might;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
you burning sun with golden beam,
you silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You rushing wind with voice so strong,
you clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise God, Alleluia!
you rising morn, in praise rejoice,
you lights of evening find a voice,
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your God to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
you fire so powerful and bright,
wonderful source of warmth and light,
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And all forgiven tender hearts,
forgiving others, take your part,
sing praises, Alleluia!
you who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Words: adapted and used with permission of Dr Douglas Mews
Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen, arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). TiS 100*

WELCOME

Priest: 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: Let us give thanks
for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

**Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,
release for the captives,
recovery of sight for the blind
and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

GLORIA

Sing prais - es to God, Cre -
at - ing Pres - ence, Spin - ner of star - dust bril - liant with light,
Paint - er of dark - ness, deep - er than night. All glo - ry to God.
Sing prais - es to God,
born of com - pas - sion, Heal - ing re - la - tion - ship, bless - ing the poor,
Spurned as a reb - el by peo - ple in power. All glo - ry to God.



Words: Jenny Blood (1932-2022). Music: Michael CW Bell

Please be seated.

Liturgist:

Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life
and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.
We confess how estranged we have become—
from one another, from your Creation,
and from our truest selves.

We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses
have fractured our relationships with you,
with others, and with the Earth.

Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate,
oceans and rivers are polluted.

Thriving communities have become places of suffering,
and the earth cries out.

Silence

Let us ask Christ for forgiveness for these days of destruction.

**God, our Creator,
forgive us for our crimes against creation,
our days of destruction on earth,
and give us the courage in Christ
to work with the Earth to bring healing and peace.**

The Absolution is declared by the presiding priest.

Grace flows like a river; mercy like a never-ending stream.
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Amen.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

All the darkness in the world
cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.

St. Francis Of Assisi, The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi

**Holy Jesus,
give us something of Francis' simplicity,
something of his recklessness,
something of his humility,
and of his love for all creatures.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

The Prayer of St Francis.

The Prayer of St Francis

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

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Tama ngākau mārie, Tama a t'Atua,
tēnei tonu mātou, arohaina mai.**

**Murua rā ngā hara. Wetekina mai
ēnei here kino, whakararu nei.**

**Takahia ki raro, tau e kino ai;
kei pā kaha tonu, ko nga mahi hē.**

**Hōmai he aroha, mōu i mate nei.
Tēnei ra, e Ihu, tākina e koe.**

**Tēnei arahina, a tutuki noa:
puta i te pōuri, whiwhi hari nui.**

**Tama ngākau mārie, Tama a t'Atua,
tēnei tonu mātou, arohaina mai. Amine. ¹**

*Text: Traditional Maori hymn
Tune: Tama ngākau mārie, traditional Maori hymn. AA 128*

THE GOSPEL

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



Matthew 11:25-30

This is the Gospel of Christ.



SERMON

SILENCE

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

¹ Son of a peaceful heart, remove our sin. Trample evil underfoot.
Give us love and lead us through darkness to joy. Son of a peaceful heart, love us.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist:

We stand to affirm the faith we share and seek to follow.

**We believe in God,
who gives us this world as a gift,
who creates all things,
who embraces all things,
who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptises this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
seen in the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one,
the climate refugee -
who loves and cares for this world and suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ,
the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.
And we believe in the hope
that one day God will put an end to injustice
and all destructive forces. ²**

Please be seated.

² *Luthern Theological College, South India, Season of Creation 2026, Adapted.*

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.

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.

A ki a koe ano hoki.

[The peace of Christ be always with you. And also with you.]

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *

Make me a channel of your peace.

**Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Christ;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

***O Jesus, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.***

Make me a channel of your peace.

**Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

O Jesus, grant that I may never seek...

* 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.



**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

***O Jesus, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.***

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Christ;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

Words: Based on an anonymous prayer (? French) c. 1900

This version by Johann Sebastian Templehoff ('Sebastian Temple') (1928-1997)

Tune: Channel of Peace, Sebastian Temple (1928-1997), arr. Betty Pulkingham. TiS 607

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.

Life-giving God, your word speaks in the void,
calling into being things that are not,
inviting us to share your work of creation.

We thank you for the ages long of gathering stars and cooling earth,
of life evolving and waking eyes of wonder.

We thank you for the creatures with whom we share the world,
for their lives so different from our own and the richness they reveal.

We thank you for Jesus the Son,
formed from Mary's body and nurtured by her faith;
he walked the growing earth and proclaimed a fearless kingdom
of bird and lily, child and stranger, the beggar and the blind.

On the cross, Christ joined the labour of all creation's yearning;
And in his rising hallowed us all to bear the glory of God;
and sent the brooding Spirit to bring to birth a living hope.

Therefore, with all that has life through Christ
with animals and angels and all who hope for a new creation,
we share the song of love which sounds from all eternity:

4
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of po-wer and might

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

2
Bless the One who comes in the pow'r of love.

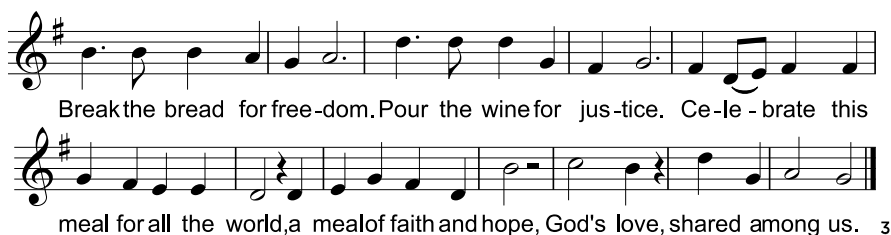
3
Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high-est!

We give thanks for our brother, Jesus Christ;
who, on the night that he was betrayed,
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
Christ is present in touch and taste beyond all words.



Break the bread for free-dom. Pour the wine for jus-tice. Ce-le - brate this
meal for all the world, a meal of faith and hope, God's love, shared among us. 3

We ask that your Holy Spirit
will fall upon us and upon these gifts
so that these fragile, earthly things
will be to us the bread and wine of life. 4

United in the power of love with all who stand for justice,
we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.



Blessing and hon-our and glo - ry be Yours, here and
ev-'ry -where now and for - ev - er, A - men.

Please be seated.

³ Words by Jenny Blood (1932-2022)

⁴ Steven Shakespeare, adapted

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**E to matou Matua i te rangi,
kia tapu tou Ingoa.**

Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.

**Kia meatia tau e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.**

Homai ki a matou aianeī he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.

**Murua o matou hara,
me matou hoki e muru nei,**

i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.

**Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;
engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:**

**Nou hoki te rangatiratanga,
te kaha, me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Amine.**

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:

A-do-ra-mus te Chris-te, be-ne-di-ci-mus ti-bi,
qui-a per cru-cem tu-am re-de-mi-sti mun-dum,
qui-a per cru-cem tu-am re-de-mi-sti mun-dum. 5

⁵ *We adore you, Jesus Christ, and we bless your holy name;
truly your cross and passion bring us life and healing.*

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Creating God,

**give us hearts to understand;
never to take from creation's beauty more than we give;
never to destroy for the furtherance of greed;
never to deny giving our time and energy
for the building of Earth's beauty;
never to take from her what we cannot use.
Give us hearts to understand
that as we care for the Earth, the Earth will care for us.
Amen.**

BLESSING

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half truths and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from
pain, rejection and war, so that you may reach out your hand to
comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life,
be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

**Our life has its seasons, and God has the reasons
why spring follows winter, and new leaves grow,
for there's a connection with our resurrection
that flowers will bud after frost and snow,**

***so there's never a time to stop believing,
there's never a time for hope to die,
there's never a time to stop loving,
these three things go on.***

**There's a time to be planting, a time to be plucking,
a time to be laughing, a time to weep,
a time to be building, a time to be breaking,
a time to be waking, a time to sleep,**

***but there's never a time to stop believing,
there's never a time for hope to die,
there's never a time to stop loving,
these three things go on.***

**There's a time to be hurting, a time to be healing,
a time to be saving, a time to spend,
a time to be grieving, a time to be dancing,
a time for beginning, a time to end,**

***but there's never a time to stop believing,
there's never a time for hope to die,
there's never a time to stop loving,
these three things go on.***

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Tune: Kotuku, Colin Gibson. AA 113

Deacon from the rear of the Church:

Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.

Amen. We go in the power of love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*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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