



SUNDAY
JANUARY

4

2026



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

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

NOTICES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou would reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

Words: J. S. B. Monsell (1811-1879). Tune: Was lebet. TIS 160

WELCOME

Come people of God, turn your hearts and minds to the light of Christ even as we turn to the warmth of our summer sun.
Let us be ready to welcome the events and the people who may become turning points in our lives.

**We welcome with eyes and hearts open,
ready to see God present in our summer world;
in the people we meet and in the things we do.**

Liturgist: This is what God asks of you:
to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly upon our earth.

**God of grace, in whom we live and move and dance for joy,
guide our steps through the complexities of life;
widen our vision that our sight be not limited
by what we see, nor our wisdom by what we know,
nor our love by what we can accept. Amen.**

THE GLORIA

**Glorious are you, Mystery of Life,
essence of all creation.
You are the symphony of stars and planets.
You are the music of the atoms within us.
You are the dawn on mountain peaks,
the moonlight on evening seas.
Forest and farm, the rush of the city,
everything is embraced in your love.**

Glorious are you Christ Jesus,
Cosmic love in human form.
You graced the smallness of time and place
to teach us to dance to the music.
You walk on our seas and heal in our streets.
You make your home in our lives,
revealing that cross and resurrection
are one on the road to freedom.

**Glorious are you, O Spirit of Truth,
wisdom and breath of our being.
You are the wind that sweeps our senses.
You are the fire that burns in our hearts.
You are the needle of the inner compass,
always pointing to true North,
guiding us on the sacred dance
into the Mystery of Life.¹**

Please be seated.

¹ Joy Cowley, adapted

RECONCILIATION

In this time of quiet
we invite you to reflect on life this holiday season.
Bring into the presence of God, in this place,
the joys and burdens you carry with you this morning.
If you need forgiveness, seek it in the renewing love of God.
If you need healing, or courage, or wisdom,
seek it in the peace of God.

Jesus says,

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you”

Luke 11:9

Silence.

**Gracious God, give us the wisdom to hold to what we need,
grace to let go of those things that we can do without,
and a vision of your breadth, height, and depth
that will challenge our smallness of heart,
and bring us humbly together.**

Priest: Spirit of God hold us,
Spirit of God move us, Spirit of God burn within us,
so that we may light up the world with your love.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The nations will come to your light
and the leaders to your bright dawn!
The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bring gold and incense and singing the praise of Yahweh.

Isaiah 60:6

**Shepherd of Israel and Light of Nations,
made known in the gifts of those who call to other names
and walk on different ways:
may unjust powers and the hatred within us
be dismayed by your friendship
and dethroned by your love. Amen.**²

² *Steven Shakespeare adapt.*

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew, chapter two, beginning at verse one.

Shine on our pathways.

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the Gospel of Christ.

May we hear wisdom.

SERMON

BLESSING THE CHURCH

*Take chalk and mark on the top of the front door of the church
20 + C + M + B + 26*

Tradition has given names to three of the Magi,
Three names for three gifts, brought to the newborn Christ
Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar followed the star
two thousand and twenty five years ago.

++ May Christ bless our church

++ and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen.**

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God
abides in them. Christ, God's incarnation, is present in the love
and care we share with each other in our ordinary daily lives.
May all who come to this Church this year rejoice to find love
dancing among us. **Amen.**

Loving God, bless this community. May we be blessed with health,
goodness of heart, gentleness, and hospitality. We ask this
through Christ our companion. **Amen.**

Please stand.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.³

Please be seated

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us be still and mindful of the world, the Church,
this nation, our communities, and ourselves.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you
and also with you.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

³ NZ Prayer Book, p. 481

OFFERTORY HYMN *

As with gladness those of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, true Morning Star, may we
evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
One who heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when mortal things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.

Words: W. Chatterdon Dix (1837-1898) alt. Tune: Dix, arr. W. H. Monk (1823-1889). TIS 314

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

God, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of you, our light and our hope.

Amen.

* *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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Spirit is here.

God's hope is in us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
Eternal Wisdom, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only
Son: for at this time we celebrate your revelation in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi Jesus was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism he was revealed as your Son,
sent among us. In the water made wine the new creation was
revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches,
sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices in joyful words of praise:

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just,
glory and goodness come from you.**

Glory to you most high and gracious God.

On that night before he died Jesus took bread and gave you
thanks. He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:

Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you,
shed for all, to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one;
so may we be gathered into you.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Send your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Praise, glory and love be yours, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. Amen.

Please be seated.

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 āianeī
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

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.** ⁴

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.

⁴ The prayers are taken from the Church of England resources and A NZ Prayer Book

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest: God of abundant love and unexpected gifts.

We delight in your presence amongst us.

We are glad we can gather around your table as friends sharing the bread of life and wine of blessing.

In this holiday season we will look for you in the smile of strangers, we will honour you in the life of those we love, we will be people of God and the Body of Christ wherever we are. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

**Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God, our maker now be given;
to Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

*Words: M. Rinkart (1586-1649), tr. C. Winkworth (1827-1878): alt.
Tune: Nun danket alle Gott (1), Johann Crüger (1598-1662). TIS 106 (i)*

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now to live the Gospel. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the power of Love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY