



SUNDAY
DECEMBER

19



ADVENT

4

2021

*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 love
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.¹

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Gracious God,
for our brothers and sisters, battered by disaster
we ask for your protection.

For those who are forgotten and in need of your healing touch
we hold them to your embrace.

For the relentless pursuit of love
we light this candle. Amen.

Please be seated.

¹ Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days", adapted

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

Magnificat in F

George Dyson (1883-1964)

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.

Silence

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 musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the 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 repeat dots.

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

Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her
would be accomplished!

Luke 2:45

Unfathomable Mystery,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
of whose presence we are so often unaware.
May our hearts leap for joy
in the silence of the approaching night,
as your living Word becomes a human being,
speaking to us through flesh and blood,
through our neighbours, our enemies, our friends.
We pray this through the One
in whose constant coming we trust,
whose day is always near. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Micah.

Micah 5:2-5a

Let us wait,
and hope in God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Beautiful presence, how can we name you?
Words are too small for the one who is all.
How can we speak of your gentleness in us,
the warmth of our hearts in response to your call?

*Beautiful presence, ocean of love,
strong as forever, soft as a dove.
Words often fail us, but this we know true,
you live within us as we live in you.*

There have been times of spiritual blindness,
when error and pain have distorted our sight.
Beautiful presence, you were there with us,
to show us how darkness can turn into light.

Beautiful presence, ocean of love...

Nothing that happens to us will be wasted,
all of our living is grounded in grace.
Gently you take down the walls of division,
leading us on to a larger place.

Beautiful presence, ocean of love...

Words: Joy Cowley. Tune: Beautiful Presence, Barry Brinson. HioS 9

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke,
chapter one, beginning at verse thirty-nine.



Shine on our path -ways.

Luke 1:39-45

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom.

THE SERMON

SILENCE

THE ANTHEM

A maiden most gentle

Andrew Carter

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.

Please refrain from shaking hands.

OFFERTORY HYMN ³

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most **highly favoured lady.'** Gloria!

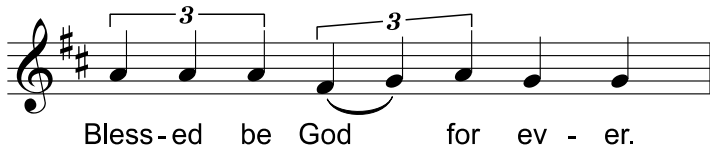
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify His holy name':
most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'most highly favoured lady'. Gloria!

*Words: Basque Carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Tune: Gabriel's Message, Basque trad., arr. C. E. Pettman (1866-1943). TIS 302*

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



³ There is a donation bowl on the back table.

For electronic giving option:

- text **stmatthew** to **818** to make a fast one off or ongoing donation by credit card to St Matthew-in-the-City or
- download the PUSHPAY app from Apple Store or Google Playstore and search for "St Matthew-in-the-City".

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Cantor *All*

Hope is a - mong us. We are God's__ light.

Cantor *All*

Shine then with free - dom into all the cor - ners of the world.

Cantor *All*

Lest fear overcome the bril - liance of life and light 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.** ⁴

Please be seated.

⁴ Steven Shakespeare *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, adapted

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 āiane
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 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.

TE POWHIRI

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua,
tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

Whatever your faith and background
all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

*The bread will be brought to you - please stay seated in the pews.
If you do not wish to receive the bread the priest will offer a blessing.*

Te Taro, o te Ora. The Bread of Life.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Jan Sandstrom

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 (b.1926)
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

*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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