



SUNDAY  
JANUARY

7

2024



**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.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Crashing waters at creation,  
**ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
first to witness day's beginning  
from the brightness of night's death.**

Parting water stood and trembled  
as the captives passed on through,  
washing off the chains of bondage -  
channel to a life made new.

Cleansing water once at Jordan  
closed around the one foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory  
ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Well-spring, source of life eternal,  
drench our dryness, make us whole.

*Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)  
Tune: Love Divine, John Stainer (1840-1901). TIS 217(ii)*

## 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, O Jesus Christ,  
Cosmic love in human flesh.  
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. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Joy Cowley

*Please be seated.*

## 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

Tarshish and the Isles will offer gifts; Arabia and Sheba will  
bring tribute. All rulers will pay homage, and all the nations  
will serve your anointed. *Psalms 72:10-11*

O God, the source of all insight,  
whose coming was revealed to the nations  
not among men of power **but on a woman's lap;**  
give us grace to seek you where you may be found,  
that the wisdom of this world may be humbled  
and discover your unexpected joy. Amen. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Janet Morley*

## THE 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 GRADUAL HYMN

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love  
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God  
until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will,  
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God;  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

*Words: E. Hatch (1835-1889). Tune: Carlisle, C. Lockhart (1745-1815). TIS 234*

## 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.

## THE SERMON

## REFLECTIVE MUSIC

*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. <sup>3</sup>

*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.*

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<sup>3</sup> 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: William Chatterdon Dix (1837-1898) alt.  
Tune: Dix, arr. W. H. Monk (1823-1889). TIS 314*

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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

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.**

## 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,  
creator, 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 your kingdom.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

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

**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.

**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

As Christ teaches us we pray

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

# 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. <sup>4</sup>

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

## 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*

## 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.**

## THE BLESSING

## NOTICES

## RECESSIONAL 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, melody from a MS 'Choral-Buch'  
of Johann Heinrich Reinhardt, Üttingen, 1754. TIS 160*

*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

*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.***

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