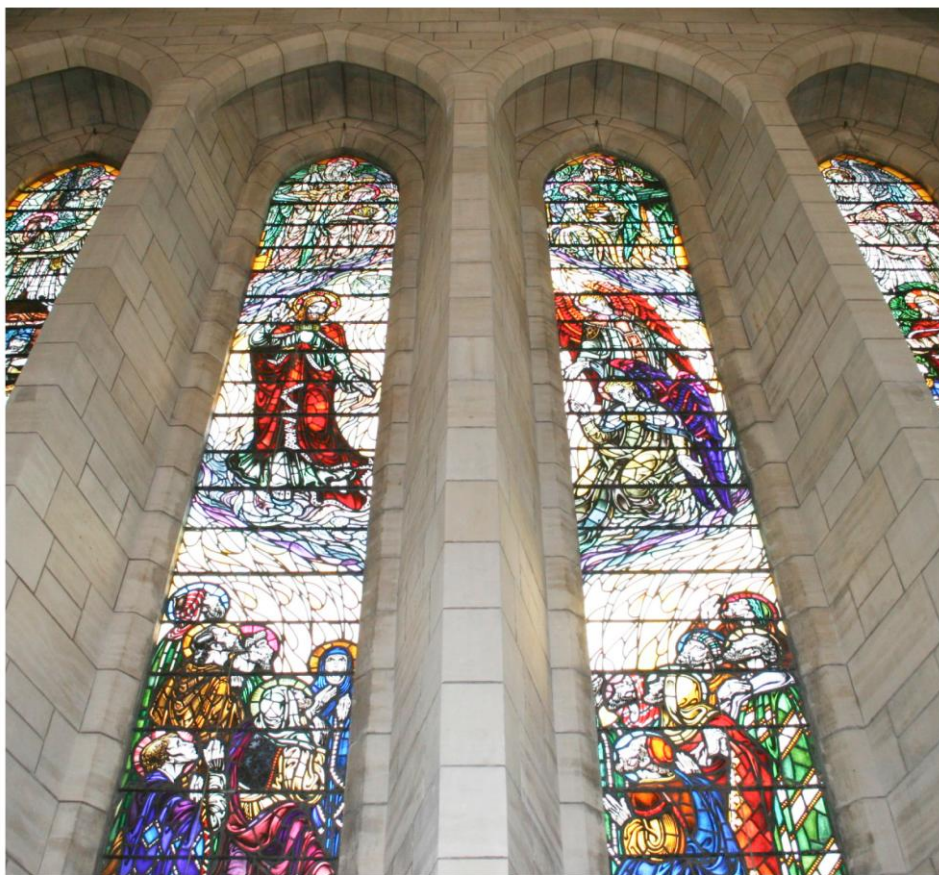




A spirited place
where people stand,
connect and seek
common ground

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
11
2026



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

***Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.***

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
we are the old, who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.**

***Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.***

**Here we will take of the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

***Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.***

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, now is the day.**

***Gather us in, and hold us forever;
gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.***

Text: Marty Haugen. Tune: Gather Us In, Marty Haugen. TIS 474

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:

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
where God has made a holy dwelling.

God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved;

God will help us at the break of day. ¹

BENEDICITE AOTEAROA

O give thanks to God who is good,
whose love endures for ever.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You prophets, priests, cleaners and clerks,
professors, programmers, teachers and learners,
seekers, discoverers, drivers and doctors

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You sweepers, diplomats, writers and artists,
grocers, carpenters, students and shop workers,
homemakers, mystics, aid workers and lawyers

Give to God your thanks and praise.

You Māori, Pākehā, women and men,
all who inhabit the long white cloud,
all saints and martyrs of the South Pacific

Give to God your thanks and praise.

Please be seated.

¹ Psalm 46:4

FORGIVENESS

Liturgist:

We come seeking forgiveness and wholeness
for ourselves and for our world.

1st time CANTOR, 2nd time ALL



E te A - ri - ki kia_ a - ro - ha mai.

E - te - Ka - rai - ti kia_ a - ro - ha mai.

E te A - ri - ki kia_ a - ro - ha mai.

[Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy]

Ian Render. Tune: Newlands Road. FFS 13

Silence

Holy God,

**we acknowledge we have resisted the light of your love,
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us,
we have not treasured the gifts of our neighbours.
We are in need of your love.**

Priest:

God our healer whose mercy is like a refining fire:
touch us with your justice
and confront us with your tenderness;
that, being forgiven and comforted by you,
we may reach out to a troubled world.

Amen.²

² *Daily Prayers for All Seasons p 15-16*

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

O give thanks to the Creator, for she is good,
for her steadfast love endures forever.

Psalms 106:1

**Living host,
call us together, call us to eat and drink with you.
Grant that by your body and your blood
we may be drawn to each other and to you.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Epistle to the Philippians.

Philippians 4:1-9

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

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, God, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing
for you only may it ring;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
claim it now for you alone.**

**Take my love; my God, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

*Text: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), adapted
Tune: Nottingham, adapted from Wenzel Müller (1767-1835). TIS 599 (ii)*

THE GOSPEL

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



Matthew: 22:1-14

This is the Gospel of Christ.



SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

A Prayer of St Columba

Celia McDowell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist:

We stand to affirm our faith.

**God is with us, this we believe.
For we have seen the signs of grace
in every time and every place.**

**The beauty of the creation,
in all its wonder,
is not the only home of the Creator.**

**Our God is born in cities as well as stables,
is found in holy places
and the marketplace
and sits with us in cafés and under bridges
and joins with buskers singing hopeful songs
on the streets of this day.**

**The Spirit dances on concrete
and holds in comfort
those who walk with briefcases and shopping bags.
The God who is more than we can ever name or know
is beside us in every place.⁴**

Please be seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist:

Let us gather our hearts and minds in prayer;
prayer for our world and for God's people.

⁴Adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, "Liturgies for Pausing" p. 4

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Kia tau te rangimārie o te Atua ki a koutou.

A ki a koe ano hoki.

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

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *

**God has laid a feasting table,
all her guests are gathered 'round.
From the highways and the byways
all the lost have now been found.
When we hear the invitation
will we lay our burdens down?**

**At this table all are welcome,
no-one need be left behind.
God is greater than our difference,
Christ can see where we are blind.
When we hear the invitation
will we love all humankind?**

**God is crying out for justice,
Christ is weeping in the street.
When will be the time for laughter?
When will all have food to eat?
When we hear the invitation
will we make God's will complete?**

Text: Shawn Whelan

Tune: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879). TiS 142

* 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 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.

In a city of a thousand strands,
laden with the sights and sounds of God's colourful people,
we meet the Creator and discover the mark of God
in both stranger and friend.

God of many names, we give you thanks that you are
uniting the people of the city.

In a city of forgotten people and lost stories
help us to listen for your good news
amongst those left out or left behind in the busy rush.

We give thanks for Jeremiah who prayed for the city,
for it is here that we make our home and learn of you.

We give thanks for prophets like Deborah
who challenged the people and their leaders in the town square.

Fill our hearts with an image of your son Jesus
who embraces and welcomes us all.

In the noise and in the silence, in the traffic and at home
we give thanks for his liberating presence as we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy One,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Bless the One who comes in the power of love.
Hosanna in the highest!**

The city was crowded with people from across the world,
the faithful gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover:
the festival of freedom.

Jesus and his friends rented a room above a busy street,
and there they shared a last meal together.

In the quiet of the night Jesus took a piece of bread,
gave thanks, broke it and said:

‘This is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.’

He meets the needs of a hungry city.

When everyone had finished eating

Jesus took a cup of Passover wine, gave thanks and said:

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this to remember me.’

He quenches our thirst as we search for a holy city. ⁵

Break the bread for freedom.

Pour the wine for justice.

Celebrate this meal for all the world.

A meal of faith and hope,

God’s love, shared among us.

Send your Holy Spirit that we who receive this bread
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share this cup draw strength from the one true vine.
For you dwell in the heavenly city and make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

Blessing and honour and glory be yours,

here and everywhere, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

⁵ *Chris Shannahan [2008], 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

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:



U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,



u - bi ca - ri - tas De-us i - bi est.

Taizé, Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kāhui a te Atua,
tangohia ēnei 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

Rejoice in the Lord alway

John Redford (1486–1547)

O sacrum convivium

Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

The peace of God

John Rutter

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We bless you, generous God
abiding in every part of the city,
in each other, and in the stranger, who waits with us
for a place at the table of life.
May we also learn the way to make room for all. Amen.** ⁶

BLESSING

NOTICES

⁶ *Jenny Blood (1932–2022)*

FINAL HYMN

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
hidden now in mystery,
nature bursts with joyful promise,
ripe with what is yet to be.
In a wealth of rich invention,
still the work of art unfolds:
barely have we seen, and faintly,
what God's great salvation holds.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
making Jesus seen and heard.
Every age of God's creation
grasps new meaning from the Word.
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us
your new work begun today:
eyes and ears and hearts are open,
teach us what to do and say.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
all God's children brought to birth,
freed from hunger, fear and evil
every corner of the earth,
and a million, million voices
speak with joy the Saviour's name;
every face reflects his image,
never any two the same.

Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
nothing shall be left to chance.
All that lives will be united
in the everlasting dance.
All fulfilled and all perfected,
each uniquely loved and known,
Christ in glory unimagined
once for all receives his own.

Words: Marnie Barrell. Tune: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991). TiS 153

Deacon from the rear of the Church.

May the streets of our city be holy ground under your feet.
Go into the city, walking in faith and hope.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Minuet

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

MUSIC NOTES

English composer Cecilia McDowall has earned wide acclaim for her richly crafted choral works. Her compositions have been commissioned, performed, and recorded by prestigious ensembles including the BBC Singers, The Sixteen, and many of the choirs of Oxford and Cambridge. She was appointed Honorary Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music in 2017. McDowall's anthem *A Prayer of St Columba* is characterized by expressive and emotive melodic lines, and features appealing, arching phrases that gently unfold over a rippling keyboard accompaniment.

The anonymous sixteenth-century anthem *Rejoice in the Lord alway* (formerly attributed to John Redford) is a setting of the fourth chapter of St Paul's letter to the Philippians which forms the Epistle reading for the Fourth Sunday in Advent in the Church of England Book of Common Prayer. The only known source of this anthem is in the Mulliner Book which is held in the British Library. The rhythms in the music make it apparent that the words originally set were from the 1594 Prayer Book. The music - a restrained setting of the words - varies between imitative passages and homophonic sections as, for example, at the words 'Let your softness be known unto all'.

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