

St Matthew-in-the-City



Christmas Eve 2023
11.30pm

Nau mai, haere mai;
a warm welcome to St Matthew-in-the-City,
a spirited place where people stand, connect,
and seek common ground.

We are glad you have come
to celebrate Christmas
with this community.

We hope that you will find
the Christmas spirit of peace and love
in tonight's celebrations.

Presider: Rev Diana Rattray

Preacher: Rev Cate Thorn

Organist: Nicholas Forbes

St Matthew's Voices

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

SOLO:

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

CHOIR:

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and meek, and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the loving mother
in whose gentle arms he lay.
Christian children all should be
mild, obedient, good as he.**

For he is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Tune: Irby, H. J. Gauntlett (1803-1876), harm. by A. H. Mann; Carols for Choirs I 3

WELCOME

Son of God, light that shines in the dark,
Child of joy and peace,
help us to come to you
and be born anew this holy night.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Liturgist:

As pōhutukawa and rātā bloom
on hillside and seashore
We light the Christ Candle.
Christ, our fragrant summer flower,
may your hope, peace, joy and love
fill all our hillsides and seashores;
may your light shine strongly
in places of violence and injustice
in our world, this day and every day.

We light the Christ Candle. Amen. ¹

Please be seated.

GLORIA

from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

¹ <https://cws.org.nz/get-involved/give/christmas-appeal/for-churches/>

SENTENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

In the beginning there was the Word ...
and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us ...
full of grace and truth.

John 1:1, 14

God of grace and truth,
whose word brings light to birth
in the heart of a darkening world,
which fears a love it cannot name:
may flesh be blessed and born anew
by a truth which leaves the heavens
and walks the waiting earth;
through Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate. Amen. ²

PSALM 96

Setting by Thomas Walmisley (1814-1856)

O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord all the earth.

Sing, and give praise to God's name:
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

Proclaim God's glory to the nations:
God's marvellous deeds to all the peoples.

For you O Lord are great and highly to be praised:
more to be feared than all the gods.

The gods of the nations are no more than idols:
but you O Lord are the one who made the heavens.

Glory and majesty attend you:
strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the nations:
ascribe to the Lord honour and might.

Ascribe due honour to God's holy name:
bring offerings, and enter the courts of the Lord.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe.

² *Steven Shakespeare*

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:2-7

May we hear angel voices.

May we see the star.

GRADUAL HYMN

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Mārie te pō, tapu te pō
Ka kite nga hepara
Te korōria o te rangi
Me nga ahera Hareruia
Kua whanau te tamaiti
E Ihu te Karaiti

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), tr. J. F. Young (1820-1885)
Tune: Silent Night, melody by F. X. Gruber (1787-1863). TiS 311*

We turn to face the Gospel reader.

THE GOSPEL

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



Shine on our path -ways.

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom. ³

REFLECTION

THE ANTHEM

O magnum mysterium ⁴

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

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 Music by Michael CW Bell

⁴ Translation: O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

OFFERTORY HYMN

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to all
begin and never cease.'

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Tune: Winchester Old, later form of melody from T. Este's 'Psalter', 1592. TIS 299

Please be seated.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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

Blessed be God forever.

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 life is holy, sacred; worthy of respect and dignity.

Let us give thanks for the power of the heart
to sense the holy in the midst of the simple.

Power and possibility of Love,
we praise you and give you thanks,
for on this night Jesus was born among us,
a baby needy and naked,
born into poverty and oppression,
in order to proclaim the gift
of your transforming grace and justice.

Therefore with all the faithful, living and dead,
with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Magi, and angels,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and singing:

Sanctus from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

On the night before he died Jesus took bread;
when he had given 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;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood which brings new life;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

With this bread and wine we answer the call of God.

Benedictus from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Empower our celebration, Spirit of promise,
feed us with your life, fire us with your love,
confront us with your justice,
and make us one with all who share your gifts of love.

Amen.

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 life of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share the one bread.

“Hodie Christus natus est”⁵

Plainchant

⁵ Translation: Today is Christ born; today the Savior has appeared; today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice; today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

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.

We will receive Communion in front of the Altar Table.

Gluten free wafers are available.

*There is a chalice for dipping –
simply hold the bread in front of you to signify your choice.*

*Te Taro o te Ora. The Bread of Life.
Te Kapu o te Ora. The Cup of Salvation*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Agnus Dei from Mass in C major, K. 220 "Sparrow Mass"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Dormi Jesu ⁶

David Griffiths

There is no rose

John Joubert (1927-2019)

⁶ Translation: Sleep, Jesus! Mother smiles who sees such sweet sleep,
sleep, Jesus, gentling! If you sleep not, mother weeps, while she spins, in song she
prays, come, gentle little sleep.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Welcome, welcome,
Jesus Christ our infant Saviour,
baby who makes every birth holy.

May we, who like the shepherds
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love
return to our work with joy.

May we, for whom the heavens have opened
to proclaim that God is with us,
we who have fed on living bread
and drunk the wine of heaven,
go out to be instruments of your peace,
day by day. Amen.

THE BLESSING

FINAL HYMN

Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

*Tune: Mendelssohn, from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
adapted by William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915). TIS 303*

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now, so the world may know
the wonder and mystery of grace.

Amen. We go in the power of Love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

*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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If you want to know more about St Matthew's
take a look at our websites:
www.stmatthews.nz, www.stmatthewsdigital.nz
like us on Facebook,

Feel free to take photos during our services
and share them on Facebook and Twitter.
No video recording please.

Toilets are located down the stairs on the left hand side of the church.
An accessible toilet is located on the right hand side past the kitchen.

Christmas Day Services:

8am Said Eucharist

10am Christmas Sung Eucharist

The Parish Office is now closed;
reopening Monday 15 January 2024.

Sunday services on 31 December, 8, 15, 22, 29 January at 10am only.
Sunday 8am services resume on 4 February 2024.

Wednesday 12.20pm services resume on 7 February 2024.

Priest in Charge: Rev Cate Thorn cate@stmatthews.org.nz
Priest Associate: Rev Diana Rattray diana@stmatthews.org.nz
Parish Office phone: (09) 379 0625

The service is being live streamed -
the camera only shows the altar area, not the congregation.