



SUNDAY  
JANUARY  
**11**  
2026



**BAPTISM OF JESUS**

*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

**Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes her dwelling.**

*Words: Bianca of Siena (c.1345 – c.1412), tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)  
Tune: Down Ampney, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). TIS 398*

# 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 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.**<sup>1</sup>

*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.*

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<sup>1</sup> Joy Cowley, *adapted*

**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

I Yahweh have called you to serve the cause of right;  
I have taken you by the hand, and I watch over you.

*Isaiah 42:6a*

**God of the desert river,  
you search our depths and call us by name:  
may your flame-born Spirit  
open us that we may recognise you  
in the one born of earth,  
Jesus, the gift of peace. Amen. <sup>2</sup>**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 42:1-9*

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

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<sup>2</sup> *Steven Shakespeare, adapt.*

# THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew,  
chapter three, beginning at verse thirteen.

**Shine on our pathways.**

*Matthew 3:13-17*

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**May we hear wisdom.**

# 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

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother, you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father, you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort;  
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)*

*Tune: Omni Die, melody from David Gregor Corner's 'Gesangbuch', Nüremberg, 1631  
arr. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895). TIS 101*

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\* 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

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>

*We sing three times Taizé:*

A - do - ra - mus te Chris - te, be - ne - di - ci - mus ti - bi,  
qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum,  
qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum.

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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.**

# BLESSING

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

**We have a gospel to proclaim,  
Good news for all throughout the earth;  
a gospel treating all the same,  
we sing God's glory, tell God's worth.**

**Tell of the birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall;  
but in a stable dark and dim  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of the death that Jesus died,  
a victim of intrigue and lies;  
his pain and sufferings hard to hide,  
but faith and hope can still arise.**

**Tell of the message: life restored,  
despair now gone, a future to see;  
the way is opened for us all  
to live with joy, our dreams set free.**

*Words: Edward Joseph Burns, adapted  
Tune: Fulda, W. Gardiner's 'Sacred Melodies', Vol. II, 1815  
Melody probably by William Gardiner (1770-1853). TIS 608*

*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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