

SUNDAY
DECEMBER

22



ADVENT

4

2024

*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

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, thou living Source of light,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Words: based on Latin Antiphons, tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

Tune: Veni Emmanuel, plainsong melody (15th cent.)

harm J. H. Arnold (1887-1956). TiS 265

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 peace
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

As a summer solstice sun rises in the eastern sky,
as berries ripen,
and the fragrance of mānuka blooms fill the warm air,
we light the candle of love.
May the fire and fragrance of God's love,
transform our world,
so that the hungry are fed,
so that the lowly are lifted up,
so that all the community of life can flourish.

We light the Advent candle of love. Amen. ²

Please be seated.

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

² <https://cws.org.nz/get-involved/give/christmas-appeal/for-churches/>

RECONCILIATION

Liturgist:

When hope 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.



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.

Silence

**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

...they shall sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees
and no one shall make them afraid.

Micah 4:4a

**We pray, that as we stand firmly
on the soil of this land in the present moment,
our hearts will be open to its beauty and its possibilities,
our minds free to imagine the hungry filled with good things,
the fearful filled with peace,
and the homeless secure and warm,
while all the earth sings with joy. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Micah.

Micah:5:2-5a

Let us wait,
and hope in God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Christ, your sun is rising,
and our hearts surprising,
source of all befriending,
spirit never-ending.**

**We may find you living,
present in all giving,
human face of loving,
faithful in your moving.**

**In all pain and pleasure
you discern our measure,
welcoming the stranger,
facing every danger.**

**Take away all sorrow,
bless a new tomorrow,
guide our liberation,
join in celebration.**

*Words: Jenny Blood (1932-2022)
Tune: Ravenshaw, melody by William Henry Monk (1823-1889). TIS 427*

THE GOSPEL

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



Shine on our path -ways.

Luke 1:39-56

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom.

THE SERMON

THE ANTHEM

Ave regina caelorum

Orlande de Lassus (1532-1594)

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN *

**We wait for you, we long for you to come
Lord Jesus Christ, bring Christmas to our home!
We covet peace, the curing of the earth,
but not the pain that carries you to birth.**

**We wait for you, we long to see you come
released from Pilate's hall to upper room.
We covet truth, the triumph of the good,
but not the nails, the torture and the blood.**

**We wait for you beside the Easter tomb,
Lord Jesus Christ we long for you to come.
We covet life relieved of hurt and loss,
but not the weight of carrying a cross.**

**You wait for us, you long for us to be
a birthing place for peace, a justice tree,
an energy for life, a flag! a sign!
a fragrance in the air – fresh bread, new wine!**

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Expectation, Colin Gibson. AA 149*

* *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.*

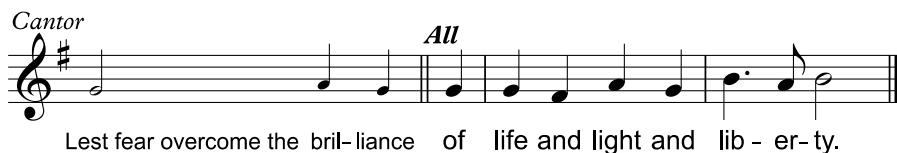


THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



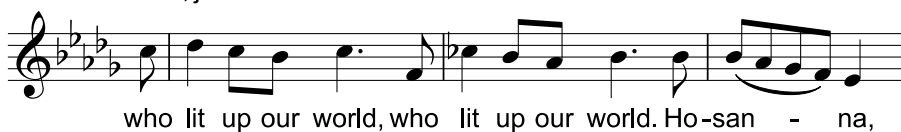
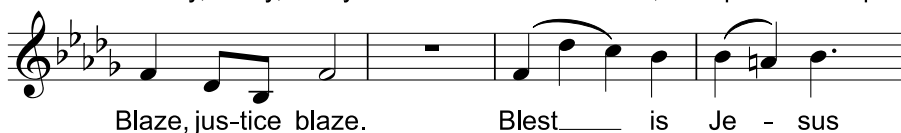
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 life.

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:



On the night that he was betrayed,
your Son Christ Jesus,
gathered with his 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.



The musical notation is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'We of - fer bread to eat with eyes and hands held'. The second staff contains 'o - pen. We pass this cup to share. We take, break,'. The third staff contains 'bless and give kind-ling hope ev' - ry where.' The music ends with a double bar line.

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;
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 be for us
the body and blood of Christ.

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 meal that welcomes all.

All honour and glory be yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen. ⁴

Please be seated.

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 āianeī

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.

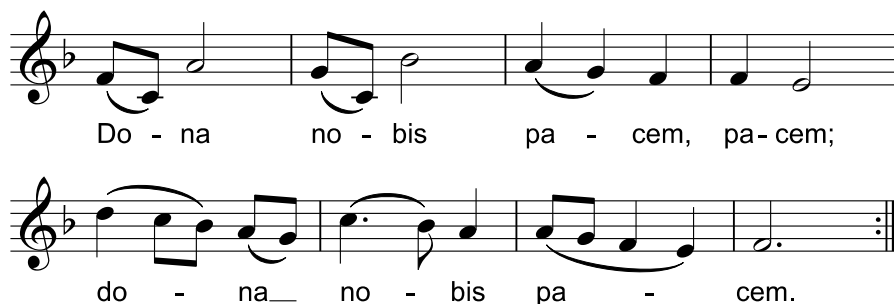
⁴ *Steven Shakespeare Prayers for an Inclusive Church, adapted*

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):



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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ave Maria

David Hamilton

I will hold Him: An Annunciation Carol

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

Angelus ad virginem

13th century, arranged by Andrew Carter

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 sustain us,
love will companion us,
and light will guide us.
May the blessing of light be upon us:
this day and always.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Go in peace, live in love,
and seek to be holy in all that you do.
May the God of mercy keep you,
the Holy Spirit cheer you,
and Christ in glory greet you,
now and at the day of his coming. Amen.

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
Tune: Woodlands, Walter Greathouse (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

*How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou,
from Fifteen Pieces Founded on Antiphons, op. 18, no. 5*

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

MUSIC NOTES

Lassus spent the best part of forty years in Munich, directing the chapel choir of the Dukes of Bavaria, and composing vast quantities of music for it to sing. This sumptuous six-voice Ave regina caelorum, one of five settings of this text by him, would have been performed at the end of the evening service of Compline in the period leading up to Holy Week. Translation: Hail, queen of heaven, hail, mistress of the angels. Hail, root, hail gateway, from which has sprung the light of the world. Rejoice, glorious virgin, fair above all others. Farewell, most gracious one, and pray to Christ for us always.

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange is a British singer, composer and choir director. Beginning with the familiar story of the angel Gabriel coming to Galilee to bring Mary the news that she will bear God's son, the verses thereafter take the form of a conversation between Gabriel (Tenors and Basses) and Mary (Sopranos and Altos). The turning point comes at verse 5 when Mary repeats the words which the angel has just spoken but in the first person, indicating her willingness to accept God's calling. For the final section of the piece, Mary communes directly with God through prayer. The metre changes from the folky 6/8 to a freer colla voce at which point the choir resumes its verse 1 role of narrator.

The fourteenth-century Irish carol Angelus ad virginem is performed here in a cheerful arrangement by Andrew Carter, who lived briefly in Auckland in 1984, where he founded the Auckland Youth Choir. The bright organ introduction is answered by the choir who sing the Latin hymn and tell the story of the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, found in the first Chapter of the Gospel according to Luke. In the third verse the choir sings a cappella, before all forces join together for the final verse.

*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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CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Tuesday 24 December

- 6pm** Children's Nativity Service
- 10.30pm** Carols with Auckland City Brass
- 11.30pm** Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25 December

- 8am** Christmas Eucharist
- 10am** Christmas Sung Eucharist