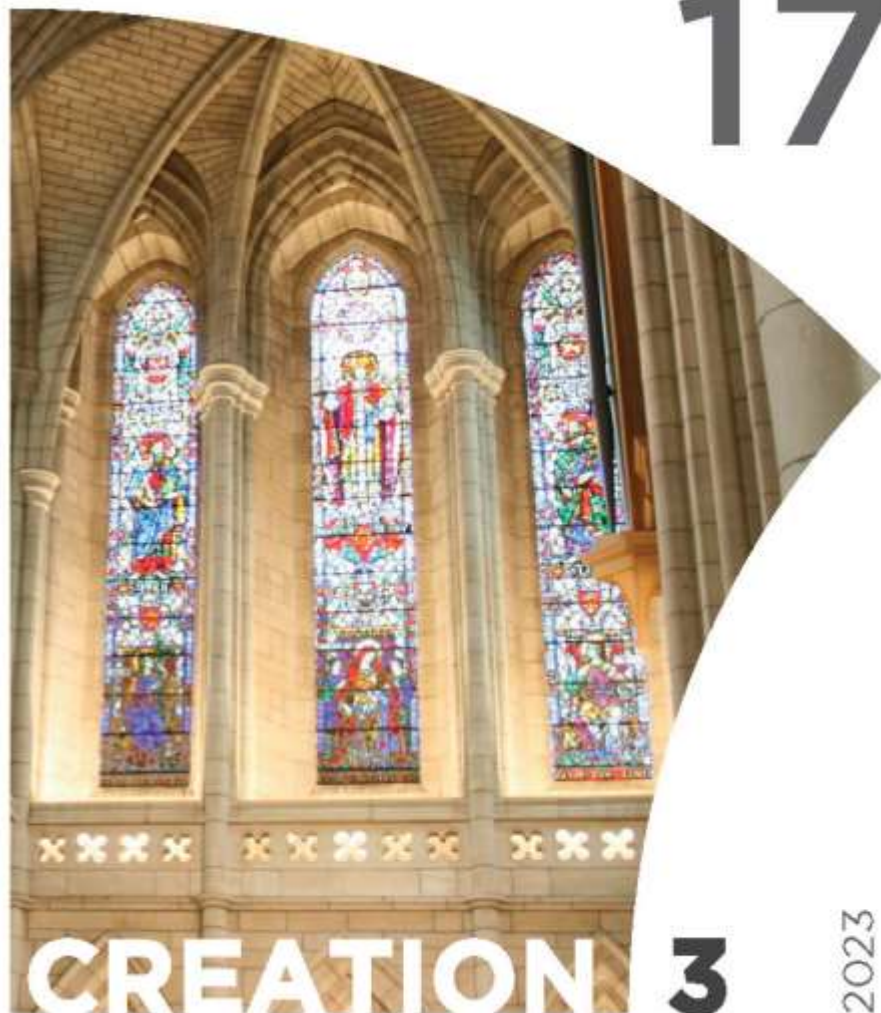




SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER

17



CREATION **3**

2023

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All creatures of our God and light,
lift up your voice with all your might;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
you burning sun with golden beam,
you silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

You rushing wind with voice so strong,
you clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise God, Alleluia!
you rising morn, in praise rejoice,
you lights of evening find a voice,
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

You flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your God to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
you fire so powerful and bright,
wonderful source of warmth and light,
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all forgiven tender hearts,
forgiving others, take your part,
sing praises, Alleluia!
you who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Words: adapted and used with permission of Dr Douglas Mews
Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen, melody from "Geistliche Kirchengesäng", Cologne, 1623
arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). TiS 100*

WELCOME

Priest:

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:

Let us give thanks
for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,
release for the captives,
recovery of sight for the blind
and liberty for those who are oppressed.

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.

All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow; kauri and pine,
rata and kōwhai, mosses and fern



Give to God your thanks and praise.

Dolphins and kahawai, sealion and crab,
coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp: rabbits and cattle, moths and
dogs, kiwi and sparrow and tūi and hawk



Give to God your thanks and praise.

THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Yahweh is our strength and our courage;
you have become our deliverance.
You are Yahweh - we will praise you.

Exodus 15:2

God of debts forgiven,
you call to account our hunger for power;
you disturb hierarchies which crush the weak;
break the vicious cycles of revenge and domination
that we might look to the One
whose compassion never ends. Amen. ³

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Romans 14: 1-12

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

THE GRADUAL HYMN

Arahina, e lhowā,
Tō pononga i te ao:
Whakakitea mai tōu kaha,
Puritia rā au e koe
A whāngainga, A whāngainga
Ki te kai e ora ai,
Ki te kai e ora ai.

Whakahekea mai te puna
Hei horoi mō te hara.
Tukua ko te kapua mura,
Hei ārahi i ahau;
Tēnei hoki, Tēnei hoki,
Whakakahangia e koe,
Whakakahangia e koe.

³ *Steven Shakespeare. Adapted*

Whakamāmākia e koe
Tō te mate takiwā;
Whakawhitia tō pononga
I ngā wai o Horano;
Whakauria, Whakauria
Ki te wā o Kenana;
Ki te wā o Kenana! ⁴

Words: Traditional Maori Version
Tune: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932). TIS 569

THE GOSPEL

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



Be a lamp to my feet.

Matthew: 18:21-35

This is the Gospel of Christ.



Be a light for my path.

THE SERMON

THE SILENCE

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

Våren (Last Spring) Op. 34, No. 2

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

⁴ *Guide me as a pilgrim and feed me; wash me and lead me, strengthen me;
allay my fears and bring me safe to Canaan across the Jordan.*

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist:

We stand to affirm the faith we share and seek to follow:

We have faith
in one God, one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole earth,
with all her creatures.

And thus we have faith
in the goodness of earth's life,
in the innate worth of all her dependents,
in human partnership in the life of nature.

And we have faith
that in Christ
we have been shown the special role of the human race
to bear God's likeness
in working and caring for the earth,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers
for the wellbeing of all children of the earth.

And we have faith
that God's Spirit
will lead us to sensitive closeness with earth's life,
to that meek, unselfish and compassionate life-style
by which the earth is inherited in peace,
by which her life is transformed for all creatures
to share justly in her bounty.
So be it. Amen. ⁵

Please be seated.

⁵ From India. Source: *Sinfonia Oecumenica*, Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh 1998

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.

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.

A ki a koe ano hoki.

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

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN *

Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.
Now, because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God;
spiced with humour, laced with laughter -
flavour of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

* *There is a donation bowl on the back table.
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:*



Take whatever I can offer –
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Tune: Talavera Terrace, Colin Gibson. AA 127*

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 for ever.

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.

Life-giving God, your word speaks in the void,
calling into being things that are not,
inviting us to share your work of creation.

We thank you for the ages long of gathering stars and cooling earth,
of life evolving and waking eyes of wonder.

We thank you for the creatures with whom we share the world,
for their lives so different from our own and the richness they reveal.

We thank you for Jesus the Son,
formed from Mary's flesh and nurtured by her faith.

On the cross, he joined the labour of all creation's yearning;
in his rising, he hallowed all flesh to bear the glory of God;
he gives the brooding Spirit to bring to birth a living hope.

Therefore, with all that has life through him
with animals and angels and all who hope for a new creation,
we share the song of love which sounds from all eternity:

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by the lyrics 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of po-wer and might'. The second staff continues with 'Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.' The third staff starts with a 2-measure rest, followed by 'Bless the_ One who comes in the pow'r of love.' The fourth staff ends with a 3-measure rest, followed by 'Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san - na in the high - est!'.

4
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of po-wer and might

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

2
Bless the_ One who comes in the pow'r of love.

3
Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san - na in the high - est!

We give thanks for our brother, Jesus Christ;
 who, on the night that he was betrayed,
 gathered with his faltering 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.

Break the bread for free-dom. Pour the wine for jus-tice. Ce-le-brate this
 meal for all the world, a meal of faith and hope, God's love, shared among us. ⁶

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts
 so that these fragile, earthly things
 will be to us the bread and wine of life. ⁷
 United in the power of love with all who stand for justice,
 we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing and hon-our and glo-ry be Yours, here and
 ev-ry-where now and for-ev-er, A-men.

Please be seated.

⁶ Words by Jenny Blood (1932-2022)

⁷ Steven Shakespeare, adapted

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice
be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen. ⁸

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:

Love tri-umphs o-verfear, Love tri-umphs o-verfear,
Love _____ tri-umphs o - ver fear.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two lines of the text. The second staff contains the melody for the third line, with a long horizontal line under the word 'Love' indicating a breath mark or a long note.

⁸ NZPB/HKMoA p181

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

Chant de Mai

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Filled with a Spirit that calls us and the entire world beyond
what we ever thought was possible,
we leave this table
strengthened with food for the journey
and a vision of life as it can be;
one diverse family, living in justice and peace.

Mystery of God,
heartbeat of the universe,
centre of spirited change and rebirth;
we glorify your ways:
the ways of dignity and justice,
the ways of love for all creatures,
the ways of caring for the earth.
Let us be simple in our needs,
showing compassion for our neighbour,
sharing generously what we have,
letting go our hurts and fears.
For in you we find peace, in you we find hope,
and in you we find courage, now and forever.
Amen. ⁹

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

⁹ *Jenny Blood (1932-2022)*

FINAL HYMN

God of ages, times and seasons,
light that shines through all that lives,
yours the spirit which empowers,
yours the caring heart that gives
confidence to face the future,
strengthens faith when courage wanes,
challenges to new endeavours,
when we doubt, our hope sustains.

God of galaxies and planets
far beyond all human thought,
centuries, like pages turning,
are within your keeping brought.
You, the past that makes our present,
you the future still concealed,
yours the sacrificial giving,
boundless love through Christ revealed.

God, Creator, Holy Spirit,
Word made flesh in Christ, your Son
whose example we would follow
so that all might be as one –
ever loving, ever hopeful
of a world redeemed, restored;
people, by their faith united,
dedicated to their Lord.

God, the Alpha and Omega,
source of wisdom, life and breath,
you our highest motivation,
you the love that conquers death.
In past ages people sought you;
you are with us now as then.
In your hands we leave the future,
God, our ultimate Amen.

Words: Jocelyn Marshall, HIOS 39

Tune: Hyfrydol, melody by Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887). TiS 217(i)

Deacon from the rear of the Church:

Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.

Amen. We go in the power of love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Power of Life

Mons Leidvin Takle

MUSIC NOTES

Grieg originally published "Våren" in 12 Melodies, Op. 33, in 1880. They were song settings for voice and piano, later arranged for string orchestra, solo piano and organ. The words were by the Norwegian poet and journalist Aasmund Olavsson Vinje (1818-1870). The poem describes the Norwegian landscape's seemingly magical emergence from winter to spring. The poet wonders if this might be their last spring, observing that life has brought so much more than expected, and that some day all must come to an end. So much of Nordic life is shaped by the long winter and longing for spring. Quiet, loneliness, and isolation are frequent themes. With all of the uncertainty around climate change and the pandemic that we have all faced over the last few years, we are yearning for the light, warmth, and hope of a new spring.

Based near Kristiansand in Norway, Mons Leidvin Takle (born 1942) has studied in Stockholm, Copenhagen, Chicago and New York. Not only a church musician, he is also a well-travelled concert organist and prolific composer of vocal, instrumental and widely performed organ compositions. His unconventional, jazzy style tends to break down barriers and often drives audiences wild! *Power of Life*, dedicated to the English concert organist Christopher Herrick, is the first of nineteen pieces in a collection called *Festivity*, a set of highly extrovert, no holds barred, wonderfully over the top compositions. This energetic piece, with its non-stop rhythmic drive, carries along catchy melodies as well as insistent repeated notes and chords in its furious headlong race towards a Beethoven-style coda. Takle has a special relationship with NZ organist Kemp English, who has performed much of his music here.

*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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