

SUNDAY



INTROIT

O Oriens;
O Rex Gentium

Great O Antiphons 1

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

> Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Tune: Cross of Jesus, John Stainer (1840-1901). TiS 136

¹ The "Great O Antiphons" are each a title for the Messiah for whom we wait in Advent. O Oriens - Morning Star; O Rex Gentium - King of the Nations.

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. 2

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Our third Advent candle speaks to our hunger for joy, it speaks to our world's hunger for joy.

The candle represents the future that is full of joyful possibilities of a new way of living as we seek to live with joy.

We are hungry for joy.

Please be seated.

THE MAGNIFICAT (The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55)

Magnificat in D minor

Thomas Walmisley (1814-1856)

² Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days", adapted

RECONCILIATION

Liturgist:

When joy 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.

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.

_

³ Taizé

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

Rejoice always, pray constantly and give thanks for everything. Don't stifle the Spirit; don't despise the prophetic gift.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-20

God of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and face the world's scorn: open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, inciting our vision and calling us to a life of faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen. ⁴

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

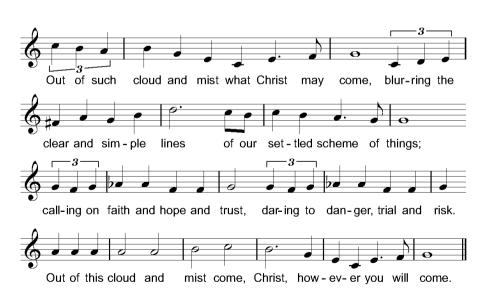
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

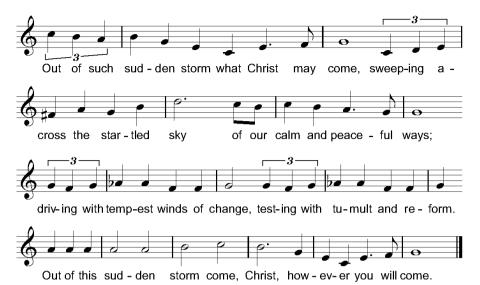
Let us wait, and hope in God.

⁴ Steven Shakespeare, adapted

GRADUAL HYMN







Words: Colin Gibson. Tune: Northland, Colin Gibson. AA 114

THE GOSPEL

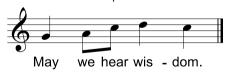
The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter one, beginning at verse six.



Shine on our path -ways.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

This is the Gospel of Christ.



THE SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

This is the record of John

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

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.

OFFFRTORY HYMN 5

Come with the sound of trumpet, come with the beat of drum, come with the church bells ringing, Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in the new dawn's silence, come in the heat of noon, come in the evening's splendour, but come, Lord Jesus, soon.

Come to our world expectant, come to our homes and hearts, come to our towns and cities, Lord, come, and loving starts. Come as our Church awaits you, come as your people pray, come as your children listen, so come to us today.

⁻

⁵ During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's; for electronic giving option: text **stmatthew** to **818** to make a fast one off or ongoing donation by credit card to St Matthew-in-the-City. Or you can download the PUSHPAY app from Apple Store or Google Playstore and search for St Matthew-in-the-City.

Come while the choir is singing, come while the organ plays, come while we take communion, come in a thousand ways.

Come as the dew at daybreak, come as the morning sun, come as the shadows lengthen, now come to make us one.

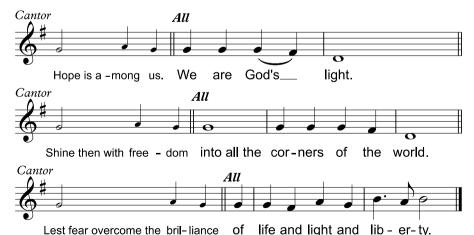
Words: Jocelyn Marshall (b. 1931) Tune: Wolvercote, William Harold Ferguson (1874-1950). TiS 595

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



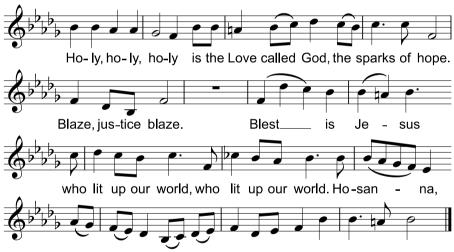
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 flesh.

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:



ho- san-na, ho-san - na to the low-est and the least.

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



Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation's host, 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 symbolize for us

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 kingdom meal.

All honour and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever. **Amen.** ⁶

the body and blood of our brother, Christ Jesus.

Please be seated.

⁶ Steven Shakespeare Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 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 āianei

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 m**ā**tou.

Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;

engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

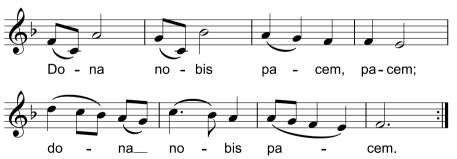
 $N\bar{\mathbf{o}}$ u hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te kor $\bar{\mathbf{o}}$ ria, $\bar{\mathbf{A}}$ ke, ake, ake. $\bar{\mathbf{A}}$ mine.

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

Vigilate

William Byrd (1540-1623)

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 overcome doubt, love will overcome fear, and light will overcome darkness. May the blessing of light be on us: light without and light within. Amen.

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

Hark! a herald voice is calling: 'Christ is near', it seems to say, 'cast away the dreams of darkness, waken, children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling shines upon the morning skies.

So when next he comes in glory, and earth's final hour draws near, faithful may he find his servants, watching till the dawn appear.

Honour, glory, might and merit, to the Father and the Son, with the co-eternal Spirit, while unending ages run.

> Words: Anonymous, Latin 6th cent. Tune: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889). TiS 264

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.

VOLUNTARY

Magnificat, Op. 47

Otto Olsson (1879-1964)

You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.

Music for Liturgical responses is by Michael CW Bell

Hymns reproduced with permission under CCLI licence 637264 Hymns and music livestreamed with permission under CCLI licence 1483113



13[™] DECEMBER

8PM Christmas Readings & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

7PM Children's Nativity Service

9.30PM Brass Band Music

10.30PM Carols for Christmas

11.30PM Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

10AM Christmas Sung Eucharist



(09) 379 0625 admin@stmatthews.org.nz stmatthews.nz

SCAN HERE TO SIGN-IN WITH THE NZ COVID TRACER APP



St Matthew in the City

132 Hobson Street Auckland City Auckland

Sign-in. Stop the virus.

Help protect yourself, your whānau, and your community with our contact tracing app.

Search NZ COVID Tracer app now:







