

SUNDAY **DECEMBER**



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

We light this candle for love.

God of love and surprises, may we love one another, embracing your generous spirit and ways of justice. Give us perseverance to bring love to the world in word and in action, following the example of the people of Pakistan.

Amen.

Please be seated.

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

Magnificat Rosemary Russell

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

RECONCILIATION

Liturgist:

When love 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.

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² 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

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour"

Luke 1:46

God with us,

borne by Mary's flesh beyond all convention: give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work where the world sees only shame; to listen to the promise and waken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen. ³

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:10-16

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.

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³ Steven Shakespeare

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 Matthew, chapter one, beginning at verse eighteen.



Matthew 1:18-25

This is the Gospel of Christ.



THE SERMON

SII FNCF

ANTHEM

Nova! Nova! Bob Chilcott

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 4

The people that in darkness walked have seen a glorious light; the light has shined on them who dwelt in death's surrounding night.

To hail you, Sun of righteousness, the gathering nations come: rejoicing as when reapers bear their harvest treasures home.

To us a child of hope is born, to us a Son is given; him shall the tribes of earth obey, him all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for evermore adored; most Wonderful, the Counsellor, the great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread, his reign no end shall know: justice shall guard his throne above and peace abound below.

Words: John Morison (1750-1798) vv. 3-5 and compilers vv. 1-2 Tune: St Botolph, Gordon Archbold Slater (1896-1979). TiS 223

⁴ There is a donation bowl on the back table. 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

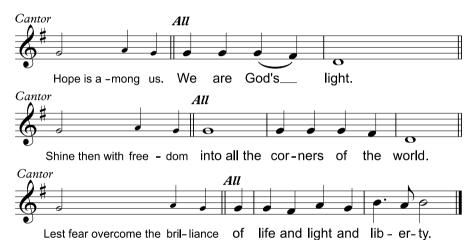
download the PUSHPAY app from Apple Store or Google Playstore and search for St Matthew-in-the-City.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



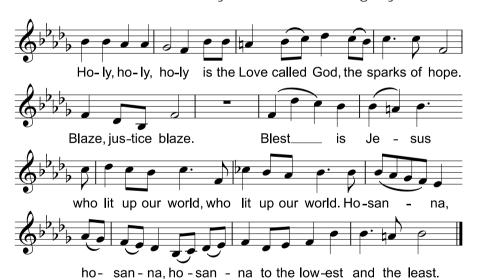
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



On the night that he was betrayed, your Son Christ Jesus, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

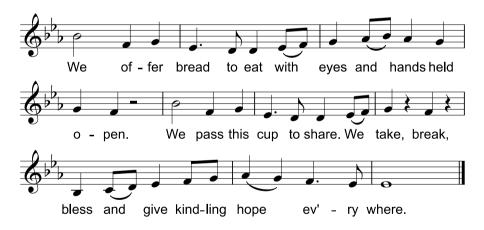
Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

'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

the body and blood of our brother, Christ Jesus.
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 5

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.

H**ō**mai ki a m**ā**tou **ā**ianei he taro m**ā** m**ā**tou m**ō** t**ē**nei r**ā**.

he taro m**ā** m**ā**tou m**ō** t**ē**nei i Murua **ō** m**ā**tou hara.

me mātou hoki e muru nei,

i **ō** te hunga e hara ana ki a m**ā**tou. Aua hoki m**ā**tou e kawea kia whakawaia;

engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

 $N_{ar{o}}$ u hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te kor $ar{o}$ ria,

Āke, ake, ake. Āmine.

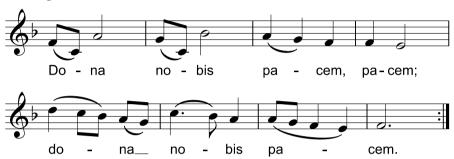
⁵ Steven Shakespeare Prayers for an Inclusive Church, adapted

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

Robert Parsons (1535-1571)

I sing of a maiden

Richard Madden

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

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 Greatorex (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

Toccata in G

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

MUSIC NOTES

Rosemary Russell grew up in a musical vicarage family, primarily singing hymns. At eight years old, she was exposed to the choral music of the Auckland Cathedral under Sir Peter Godfrey. Rosemary was a foundation member of the Festival Singers of Wellington in 1976 and worked for over 20 years as a secondary school music teacher, at Tawa Primary School and Queen Margaret College. She is currently engaged in many musical pursuits, including singing, playing the piano, conducting and composing. 'Magnificat' was written in 1996 for the Festival Singers, originally as a solo song from a musical called The Last Word, which "explored the words of Jesus and the impact these had on his contemporaries and today."

Richard Madden was born in Dunedin in 1953. He was educated at Otago Boys' High School (1966–1971) and University of Otago (1971–1976). He studied composition with Don Byars and Edwin Carr and singing with Honor McKellar, graduating BMus (Hons). Madden was Music Master at St Hilda's Collegiate School and assistant choirmaster of the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, as well as co-conductor of the City of Dunedin Youth Choir. 'I sing of a maiden' is a beautiful setting of one of the finest surviving 15th century English poems in honour of the Virgin Mary.

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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