

Welcome! Haere Mai!
St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 28 April 2024
Easter 5

Processional Hymn:

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
born of His Spirit washed in His blood

*This is my story, this is my song
praising my Saviour all the day long
This is my story this is my song
praising my Saviour all the day long*

Perfect submission, perfect delight
visions of rapture burst on my sight
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love

*This is my story, this is my song
praising my Saviour all the day long
This is my story this is my song
praising my Saviour all the day long*

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed
watching and waiting, looking above
filled with His goodness, lost in His love

*This is my story, this is my song
praising my Saviour all the day long
This is my story this is my song
praising my Saviour all the day long*

Welcome and Greeting:

In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Welcoming remarks, Notices and Celebrations

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Collect for Purity:

Let us pray together:

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,
so that we may truly love You, and
worthily praise Your holy Name;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Gloria:

Please stand, and say, together:

**Glory to God in the highest and
peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father
receive our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Summary of the Law:

Hear the teaching of Christ: a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Confession:

Hear God's Word to all who turn to Christ:

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3: 16

Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden
and I will give you rest.

Silence

God has promised forgiveness to all who:

truly repent
turn to Christ in faith, and
are themselves forgiving.

In silence, let us call to mind our sins:

Silence

Let us confess our sins:

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have
thought and said, in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we
have sinned through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to You.
Forgive us, for our Saviour's sake, and renew our lives
to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

Absolution:

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you,
pardon you and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal.
Amen.

Sharing the Word:

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
The Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Sentence:

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us.
Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one
another. *1 John 4:10-11*

Collect:

**Christ of the new covenant, give us the happiness to share, with
full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over,
all that You give us. Hear this prayer for Your love's sake. Amen.**

The first reading:

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road). So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit

beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8: 26-40

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22: 25-31

You are the theme of my praise in the full assembly

my vows I will perform in the sight of those who fear You

The poor shall eat and be satisfied

Those who seek You O Lord shall praise You,

may they be in good heart forever

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to You O Lord

and let all the families of the nations

bow down before You

For Yours is the kingdom O Lord

and You are the Ruler over the nations

As for those who sleep in the grave, how shall they worship You?

**All those who go down into the dust,
how shall they bow before You?**

But I shall live through You, and my children shall serve You

They shall tell of You to generations that are yet to come

To a people as yet unborn they shall make known

the saving deeds You have done.

**Glory to God, Source of all being,
Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and will be forever. Amen.**

The second reading:

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God

whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 John 4: 7-21

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Let there be love shared among us
let there be love in our eyes
May now Your love sweep this nation
Cause us O Lord to arise
Give us a fresh understanding
brotherly (/sisterly) love that is real
Let there be love shared among us
let there be love

Gospel:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

Praise and glory to God.

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15: 1-8

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one being with the Father;
through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became fully human.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again, in accordance
with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and
His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified and has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People:

Today we pray for the Bricks for Life programme in Ethiopia and for the New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

We pray for those in need, especially those who ask for our prayers:
Craig, Reece, James, Viv, James F.

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

E te whānau / Brothers and sisters, we are the body of Christ.

By one Spirit we were baptised into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.

Offertory Hymn:

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
the darkness deepens, Lord with me abide
when other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
earth's joys grow dim it's glories pass away
change and decay in all around I see
O Thou Who changest not, abide with me

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour
what but Thy grace can foil the tempters pow'r
Who like Thyself, my guide and stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine Lord, abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting? Where grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table:

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation:
through Your goodness we have these gifts to share,
Accept and use our offerings for Your glory
and for the service of Your kingdom.

Blessed be God forever.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places
to give You thanks and praise through Christ Your only Son.

You are the Source of all life and goodness;
through Your eternal Word, You have created all things from the
beginning and formed us in Your own image;
male and female You created us.

When we sinned and turned away, You brought us back to Yourself and
gave Your Son to share our human nature. By His death
on the cross, He made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world
and freed us from the bondage of sin.

You raised Him to life triumphant over death;
You exalted Him in glory. In Him You have made us a holy people
by sending upon us Your Holy and life-giving Spirit.

*By His victory over death, the reign of sin is ended,
a new age has dawned, a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.*

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in Him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim Your great and glorious name, forever praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and thanksgiving to You Holy Father; on the night He was betrayed, Your Son Jesus Christ took bread; when He had given 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; when He had given You thanks, He gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you. This is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember Me.

**Glory to You Lord Christ. Your death we show forth;
Your resurrection we proclaim; Your coming we await.
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling Your great goodness to us in Christ, His suffering and death; His resurrection and ascension; and looking for His coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send Your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive, may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of Your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before You in earth and heaven, we worship You, O God in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be Yours,
here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.**

Kua akona nei tātou e tō 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 āiane
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 āke āke. Āmine.**

The Breaking of Bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

Let's pray together:

**Most merciful Lord, Your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit to eat the crumbs from under Your table.
But You, Lord, are the God of our salvation
and share Your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood
of Your Son, that He may live in us and we in Him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in Your kingdom. Amen.**

The Invitation:

Draw near and receive the body and blood
of our Saviour, Jesus Christ in remembrance that He died for us.
Let us feed on Him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayers after Communion:

Father of all, we give You thanks and praise, that when we
were still far off, You met us in Your Son and brought us home. Dying
and living, He declared Your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of
glory.

May we who share Christ's body live His risen life;
we who drink His cup, bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**Keep us firm in the hope You have set before us,
so we and all Your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise Your name.
Amen.**

Blessing:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of His Son Jesus Christ ...

and may the blessing of almighty God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you, and all those you love, and with those
you struggle to love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

Immortal invisible God only wise
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most Blessed, most glorious the Ancient of Days
almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise

Unresting unhasting and silent as night
nor wanting nor wasting Thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love

To all life Thou givest to both great and small
in all life Thou livest the true life of all
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree
and wither and perish but naught changeth Thee

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight
all laud we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

Dismissal:

Haere i runga i te rangimarie, i runga i te aroha,
me te ngakau hihiko, ki te mahi, ki te Ariki.

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

This service comes from "A New Zealand Prayer Book: He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa" p. 404
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