

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 27th November 2022

Advent Sunday

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 rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, 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 heav'nly 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 Lord of might,
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.

Welcome and Greeting

In the name of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

Welcoming remarks

The Advent Prologue

Come, O God,
come walk with your people,
for you alone are our strength and glory.
O God, we put our trust in you.

Come, O God,
come walk behind us, beside us, before us,
for you alone are our shelter and direction.
O God, we put our trust in you.

Come, O God,
come seek and find and put us right,
for you alone are the light in our darkness.
O God, we put our trust in you.

O God, we are gathered here
because we want you to be born,
**not only in a stable long ago,
but in our lives, our actions, now.**

Come, O God,
come with the frightened, come with the poor,
**come with the children,
come with the stranger.**

Come to us now.

Open our hearts and disturb our lives.

Confession

Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world:
cleansing and heal our blinded sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

The Lord enrich you with grace,
and nourish you with blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

Advent Sunday: Advent wreath

Each Sunday during Advent we light a candle on the Advent wreath.

There are five candles – four for the Sundays in Advent and one for Christmas Day. Every time we light a candle, we associate the light with the forgiveness for which we have just prayed.

The first four candles also represent, respectively, hope, peace, joy and love.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

The first Advent candle represents our call to hope. When we light it, we look forward to something special. We anticipate the coming of Christ. We gather, in hope and excitement, praying for the change that Christ brings.

This candle reminds us that the prophets longed for God's presence. This candle reminds us that the people of the early church longed for God's presence too. This candle is a symbol of our own longing for God's presence, as we wait in hope for God to break anew into our lives.

May the God of hope be present with us.

May Christ the light of the world inspire us to worship.

**May the Spirit of new life fill us and lead us,
so that we might give hope to the world.**

Sentence

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

Isaiah 2:3a

Collect

Eternal God, you give us this season

to make ourselves ready for the coming of your Son.

**In this time of waiting and hoping, assist us to order our lives
so that we may be ready to welcome Jesus in the flesh.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Liberator,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Isaiah 2.1-5

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the letter to the Romans

¹Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ³let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13.11-14

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual 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 for ever,
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.

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Praise and glory to God.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: ³⁶‘About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken

into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Matthew 24.36-44

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ,
God coming to us in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.

Plunged into death and hell, he broke free
and is leading the way to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by John the Baptist,
it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be brought together
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through
the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters,
and gathered into the joyous fulfilment
of God's desire.

**For the coming of that day on this day,
we work and pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and the world giving thanks for God's goodness.

Today we pray for the Church of Tanzania and for the residents and staff of Hodgson House.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, John Boyd, Dilly, Roger N, Eve, Angela R.

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears, on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory:
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Offertory prayer

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Amen

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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
eternal and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself
to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed
before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

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,
for ever 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 before he died
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,
for 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.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

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 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 for ever. Amen.**

As Christ teaches us we pray, (saying)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Invitation

In the breaking of the bread, we recognise the risen Lord;
God-with-us-and-for-us, present among us,
saying to all people:

Come to this table.
Come as you are:
strong in faith and struggling to believe;
travelling light and heavily burdened;
whole and broken.

All are invited. Come to this table and share.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God.**

Communion hymn

Come now where we least expect you,
Christ our hope and longing, come.
Show us where we still reject you
in the world you made your home.
Look around!
Christ is found
far beyond our sacred ground.

Come where we have tried to own you
locked within the distant past,
where your church has scarcely known you,
where the least remain the last.
Enter still
where you will,
come to challenge and fulfill.

Christ-child, come in loving kindness;
come, great Judge whom angels praise!
heal us of our pride and blindness,
purge our hearts and change our ways.
God's own Word,
love outpoured,
come to us, O Christ our Lord

Prayers after Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

We pray together

**Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again
we may shine like lights before his face,
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.
Amen**

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory...

..and the blessing of God,
the Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life,
be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Notices

Concluding Hymn

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead your people into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how, through care and goodness,
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness,
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting. **Amen**



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