

Welcome! Haere mai!

# St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 10am

**Advent Sunday**

## Opening 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.**

### **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:  
cleanse 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 together, 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.**

## **CWS Partner stories**

During Advent we support the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal. This year the theme is *Justice*. Each week we hear a brief story from one of the CWS partners and we listen to the cries for justice and the voices that long for peace and dignity.

## **Partner Story**

The Cry for Climate Justice.

The Pacific Ocean links us with many people and lands who are facing the immediate effects of rising global temperatures. Already people

have had to move from their traditional whenua or land. Others are trying to cope with salty water and the lack of drinking water. The Pacific Conference of Churches has been relentless in voicing the cry of their people for climate justice. Like a canary in a mine, they have warned all people of the dangerous level of global warming in an effort to protect our common home for the unborn and future generations.

Let us pray for climate justice for all.

### **Sentence**

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.

*Luke 21:28*

### **Collect**

**Lord God,  
prophets and scriptures prepare your way;  
open our minds to discern your purpose;  
turn us from all darkness;  
and prepare us for the coming of your light;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **A Reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

*Jeremiah 33.14-16*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **A Reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Thessalonians**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*1 Thessalonians 3.9-13*

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 Luke  
**Praise and glory to God.**

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>25</sup>‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’ <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, <sup>35</sup>and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

*Luke 21.25-36*

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 in Melanesia and for the people of the New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, Shirley

## **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.**

## 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

All my hope on God is founded;  
All my trust he will renew;  
me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true:  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil we build them,  
tower and temple, fall to dust;  
but God's power, hour by hour  
is my temple and my tower.

Daily doth the almighty Giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done;  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son:  
Christ will call, one and all  
We who follow shall not fall.

### **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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