

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai



Sunday 29th November 2020

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, rod of Jesse, free
your children from this tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and rise victorious from 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,
on cloud and majesty and awe:

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Welcome and Greeting

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

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 his grace,
and nourish you with his 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. Before we light the candle for the week, we hear a brief story from one of the CWS partners who are trying to make sure people have food and we pray for their work.

Partner Story

Rasu picks tea in Sri Lanka. She climbs the steep hills, plucking a few leaves from each bush to put in the sack around her head. It is hard work and the pay is not good. She has to buy all the food for her

family from the plantation store but she dreams of starting a small mushroom farm so she can improve their diet and earn money for school and medical costs. If only she could have a small patch of land to grow food and a living wage, her family would do better. *We are hungry for hope*, she says. Let us pray that Rasu and her family will find their hope translated into reality.

Sentence

‘Heaven and earth will pass away’ says the Lord, ‘but my words will not pass away.’ *Mark 13:31*

Collect

**Holy God,
throughout the generations
the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah;
prepare us to receive him,
turn us from darkness to the glorious light that is your Son,
who is alive 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 Isaiah

¹○ that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no

one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Isaiah 64.1-9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the 1st letter to the Corinthians

My brothers and sisters: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

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 Mark
Praise and glory to God.

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Mark 13.24-37

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

Today we pray for the staff of the New Zealand Anglican Pension Board and for the work of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Cherie, Phyllis, Ron & Sue, Norman & Dinah, Tania & Garry, Mike & Rachael, Craig.

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!
God 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 grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
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,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
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,

**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, Lord Jesus,
enter our Christmas,
Be to us no stranger
in this new-made manger.

Come, small and human,
born of a woman,
Yet a Son much greater
of our own Creator.

Come, cold and crying,
comfort denying,
no place to receive you,
few yet to believe you.

Come, poor and simple,
our flesh your temple,
in your body feeling
hurt as well as healing.

Come, gift and token,
bread to be broken -
star and sign still point you,
myrrh will yet anoint you.

Taizé Chant

Wait for the Lord, his day is near
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart

Prayers after Communion

God of hope, when Christ your Son appears
may he not find us asleep or idle,
but active in his service and ready;
through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

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 shall renew;
he, my guide through changing order,
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 fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust;
but God's power, by hour
is my temple and my tower.

Day by day our mighty giver
grants to us his gifts of love;
in his will our souls find pleasure,
leading to our home above:
Love shall stand, at his hand,
joy shall wait for 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:
Hear Christ's 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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