

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



Sunday, 14 December 2025
Advent 3: Joy (Hari)

Processional Hymn:

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh
awake and hearken for He brings
glad tidings of the King of kings

Then cleansed be ev'ry breast from sin
make straight the way for God within
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come

For Thou art our salvation Lord
our Refuge and our great Reward
without Thy grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay

To heal the sick stretch out Thine hand
and bid the fallen sinner stand
shine forth and let Thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more

All praise eternal Son to Thee
Whose advent doth Thy people free
Whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Welcome and Greeting:

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

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.

Advent Wreath:

Each week during Advent we light a candle on the wreath. There are five candles – four for the Sundays in Advent, and one for Christmas Eve. Every time we light a candle, we associate the light with the attitude for which we have just prayed.

The first two candles represent: hope, and peace.

Advent 3: the Candle of Joy:

Hope is assertive, and peace is subversive. But joy? Joy is rebellious and provocative. How dare joy make its way into our dreary, despairing world? How dare joy show up in all its flashiness — it even gets a pink candle! How dare we, in the midst of war and hate and despair, deep division and grief and violence, come together and rejoice?

Why can't we rebel against all attempts to fill our lives with despair, why can't we instead focus on *joy to the world!*

**We light this candle because God is provoking us
to sing for joy, to sing and dance and laugh so hard
we have tears, because there is peace and hope in this world.**

Prayer:

God of joy, call us to sing, remind us to dance, tickle us into fits of laughter, because You are in our world and in our lives and doing something new, right now.

**Death and despair have nothing on You,
and we rejoice in You, our Saviour. Amen.**

The Gloria:

**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

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

Matthew 11:28, ESV

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:

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen
greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven
is greater than he.

Matthew 11:11

Collect:

**Terror and doom, and wrath to come, John Your herald
preached to bring us to repentance; open our eyes,
almighty God, show us our sin, and grant us forgiveness.
Hear this prayer for Your love's sake. Amen.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah: *Isaiah 35: 1-10*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Response: Luke 1: 47-55

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour

For He has looked with favour on the lowliness of His servant

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed

**For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is His name.**

His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation

**He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered
the proud in the thoughts of their hearts**

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly

**He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.**

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy

**According to the promise He made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**

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.**

A reading from the letter of James: *James 5: 7-10*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us
You are one with us, Mary's Son
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for You we song
living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day
teach us how to pray, Son of God
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of You
into our lives Your pow'r breaks through
living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us
born as one of us, Mary's Son
led out to die on Calvary
risen from death to set us free
living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to You
live my life for You, Son of God
all Your commands I know are true
Your many gifts will make me new
into my life Your pow'r breaks through
living Lord.

Gospel:

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

Praise and glory to God.

Matthew 11: 2-11

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People:

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

Today we pray for Anglican Financial Care and for the people of the
parish of Whakatane and their clergy.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for
our prayers: Craig, Viv, Hazel, Lynda, Lawrence, Vaughan, Kathy,
Joanna, Reg.

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:

Glorious things of thee are spoken
Zion, city of our God
He whose Word cannot be broken
formed you for His own abode
on the Rock of Ages founded
what can shake thy sure repose
With salvation's walls surrounded
thou may smile at all thy foes

See the streams of living waters
springing from eternal love
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove
who can faint while such a river
ever flows thy thirst to assuage
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver
never fails from age to age

Round each habitation hovering
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering
showing that the Lord is near
thus they march, the pillar leading
light by night, shade by day
daily on the manna feeding
which He gives them when they pray

Saviour, since of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am
let the world deride or pity
I will glory in Your name
fading are the world's best pleasures
all its boasted pomp and show
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

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.

*In His coming among us the day of our deliverance has dawned
and through Him You will make all things new when He comes
in power and majesty to judge the world.*

In Him You have made us a holy people
by sending upon us Your Holy and life-giving Spirit.

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 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. 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.**

As our Lord has taught us, let's sing together:

**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 forever. Amen.**

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:

To God be the glory, great things He hath done
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
let the people rejoice
O come to the Father by Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
to every believer the promise of God
the vilest offender who truly believes
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
let the people rejoice
O come to the Father by Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the on
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our gladness, when Jesus we see

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
let the people rejoice
O come to the Father by Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done*

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 *Thanksgiving of the People of God* and is used in accordance with GSTHW Canons and regulations.
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