

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



**Tuesday, 25 December 2025**  
*Christmas Day*

**Processional Hymn:**

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem  
come and behold Him, born the King of angels

*O come let us adore Him*  
*O come let us adore Him*  
*O come let us adore Him*  
*Christ the Lord*

God of God, Light of Light  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb  
Very God, begotten not created

*O come let us adore Him*  
*O come let us adore Him*  
*O come let us adore Him*  
*Christ the Lord*

Lo, star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring  
Offer Him incense, gold and myrrh  
We to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations

*O come let us adore Him*  
*O come let us adore Him*  
*O come let us adore Him*  
*Christ the Lord*

Sing choirs of angels , sing in exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God, in the highest

*O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord*

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
Jesu to Thee be glory giv'n  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

*O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord*

**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.**

**Collect for Purity:**

**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:**

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:**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
for to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. *Isaiah 9:2, 6*

**Collect:**

**Son of God, Child of Mary, born in the stable at Bethlehem,  
be born again in us this day that through us, the world may  
know the wonder of Your love. Hear this prayer for Your  
Name's sake. Amen.**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah: *Isaiah 52: 7-10***

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98:**

Sing to the Lord a new song

**for the Lord has done marvellous things**

With Your own right hand O Lord, and with Your holy arm

**You have gained for Yourself the victory**

You have made known Your victory

**You have displayed Your saving power to all the nations**

You have remembered Your faithfulness, and

Your love for the house of Israel

**And all the ends of the earth have seen Your victory**

Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth

**Sing and rejoice with the sound of melody**

Sing to the Lord with the harp

**With the harp and the voice of song**

With trumpets also and with horns

**Shout with joy before the Lord our King**

Let the sea roar and all that is in it

**The world and those who inhabit it**

Let the rivers clap their hands

**And let the hills rejoice together before the Lord**

For You O Lord are coming to judge the earth  
**with righteousness You will judge the world,  
and the peoples with equity.**

**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 to the Hebrews:** *Hebrews 1: 1-4*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn:**

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

O morning starts together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to all the earth  
For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n  
So God impart to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven  
No ear may hear His coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

### **Gospel:**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:  
**Praise and glory to God.**

*John 1: 1-14*

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:**

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

Today we pray for Anglican Missions partners in Ethiopia, Uganda  
and Tanzania, and for the people of Southern Hawkes Bay 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:**

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night, that was so deep

*Nowell, nowell  
Nowell, nowell  
Born is the King of Israel*

They lookéd up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far  
and to the earth in gave great light  
and so it continued both day and night

*Nowell, nowell  
Nowell, nowell  
Born is the King of Israel*

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far  
To seek for a king was their intent  
And to follow that star wherever it went

*Nowell, nowell  
Nowell, nowell  
Born is the King of Israel*

This star drew nigh to the north-west  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay

*Nowell, nowell  
Nowell, nowell  
Born is the King of Israel*

Then entered in those wise men three  
Full rev'rently upon their knee  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

*Nowell, nowell  
Nowell, nowell  
Born is the King of Israel*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavn'ly Lord  
Who with the Father we adore  
and Spirit blest forever more

*Nowell, nowell  
Nowell, nowell  
Born is the King of Israel*

**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 Him the light which shines for all has come into the world,  
and He has become One with us that we may become  
one with You.*

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:**

Praise my soul the King of heaven  
to His feet thy tribute bring  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven  
who like me His praise should sing  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise the everlasting King

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress  
praise Him still the same as ever  
slow to chide and swift to bless  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Glorious in His faithfulness

Father like, He tends and spares us  
well our feeble frame He knows  
in His hands He gently bears us  
rescues us from all our foes  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Widely as His mercy flows

Angels help us to adore Him  
Ye behold Him face to face  
sun and moon bow down before Him  
dwellers all in time and space  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

**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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