

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



Sunday, 1 February 2026

Epiphany 4

Processional Hymn:

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the works Thy hands have made
 I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder
 Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
 and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
 When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
 And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

And when I think, that God His Son not sparing
 Sent Him to die – I scarce can take it in
 That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
 He bled and died to take away my sin

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
 Then shall I bow in humble adoration
 And there proclaim my God how great Thou art

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

Welcome and Greeting:

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

Call to Worship:

Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

**Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,
 release for the captives, recovery of sight for the blind
 and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

Benedicite Aotearoa:

O give thanks to our God Who is good: Whose love endures for ever.

**You sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:
 give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:
 give to our God your thanks and praise.

**All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,
 glacier, avalanche, mist and snow: give to our God
 your thanks and praise.**

You kauri and pine, rata and kōwhai, mosses and ferns:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

**Dolphins and kahawai, sealion and crab,
coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp:
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs, kiwi and sparrow
and tui and hawk: give to our God your thanks and praise.

**You Māori and Pākehā, women and men, all who inhabit
the long white cloud: give to our God your thanks and praise**

All you saints and martyrs of the South Pacific:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Confession:

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.
Let us confess our sins to the Lord, let us not conceal
our wrongdoings.

Silence

God forgives and heals us.

**We need Your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us; some escape us;
some we cannot face.
Forgive us; set us free to hear Your word to us;
set us free to serve You.**

Absolution:

God forgives you. Forgive others; Forgive yourself.

Silence

Through Christ, God has put away your sin:
approach God in peace.

Sentence:

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Collect:

Teach us, Jesus, how to live and worship without being worldly or greedy. Drive from our lives what spoils them and make us temples of the Spirit; for the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Micah: Micah 6: 1-8

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15:

Lord, who may be a guest in Your house

Or who may dwell on Your holy mountain

One who leads a blameless life

Who does what is right, and speaks truthfully from the heart

Whose tongue is free from malice, who never wrongs a friend

and utters no reproach against a neighbour

Who does not honour the unworthy

But makes much of those who fear the Lord

Such a one stands by a promise given

Though it be at personal disadvantage

And will not take interest on a loan

Nor accept a bribe to testify against the innocent

Whoever does all this

Shall never be overthrown.

**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 Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
 And His righteousness
 And all these things shall be added unto you
 Allelu, alleluia

Alleluia, allelu, alleluia
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia

You shall not live by bread alone
 But by every Word
 That proceeds from the mouth of God
 Allelu, alleluia

Alleluia, allelu, alleluia
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
 Seek and you shall find
 Knock and it shall be opened unto you
 Allelu, alleluia

Alleluia, allelu, alleluia
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

Gospel:

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

Praise and glory to God.

Matthew 5: 1-12

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:

Today we pray for the team at the Moana Anglican Services and Teaching Centre in Suva, and for the Retired Bishops of Waiapu: John Bluck, George Connor, Murray Mills, David Rice.

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

We pray for the soul of the recently departed, Hazel, and for her family.

The Peace:

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. *Colossians 3: 14 (adapted)*

May the peace of God be with you all.

In God's justice is our peace.

E te whānau / Brothers and sisters, Christ calls us to live in unity.

We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn:

Blessed are the pure in heart
 For they shall see our God
 The secret of the Lord is theirs
 Their soul is Christ's abode

The Lord Who left the heavens
 Our life and peace to bring
 To dwell in lowliness with us
 Our pattern and our King

Still to the lowly soul
 Himself He will impart
 And for His dwelling and His throne
 Chooses the pure in heart

Lord, we Your presence seek
 Our inner life renew
 Give us a pure and lowly heart
 A temple fit for You.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table:

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation:
 through Your goodness we have this bread and wine to share,
 which earth has given, and human hands have made.
 They will become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Spirit of God be with you
And also with you.

Lift your hearts to heaven.
Where Christ in glory reigns.
 Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, to give You thanks most loving God, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation, Who is with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with Your whole created universe, we praise You for Your unfailing gift of life. We thank You that You make us human and stay with us, even when we turn from You to sin.

**God's love is shown to us; while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.**

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save, You came among us in Jesus Christ our crucified and living Lord.

You make all things new, in Christ's suffering and cross
You reveal Your glory and reconcile all peoples to Yourself, their true and living God.

In Christ, You fully shared our life. Light of the world, joy of every human heart, Jesus accepted our estranged and broken state and gave us back our life, our world – renewed, whole, healed – Your gift!

In Your mercy You are now our God. Through Christ You gather us, new-born in Your Spirit, a people after Your own heart.

We entrust ourselves to You,
for You alone do justice to all people, living and departed.

**Now is the acceptable time,
now is the day of salvation.**

Therefore, with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise You and say:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky and all that lives,
declare Your presence and Your glory.**

All glory to You, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises living God, for Jesus Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, Who, in the night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given You thanks, 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, and 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 to forgive sin.
Do this as often as you drink it to remember Me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our Redeemer, we meet You in Your glory.
We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon Your name.

Here and now, with this bread and wine,
we celebrate Your great acts of liberation,
ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen,
Who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way,
our access to You Father, and source of all new life.
In Christ we offer ourselves to do Your will.

Empower our celebrations with Your Holy Spirit, feed us with Your life,
fire us with your love, confront us with Your justice, and make us one in
the body of Christ with all who share Your gifts of love.

**Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before You in earth and heaven,
we worship You, Creator God. 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:

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The Invitation:

Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts be found in Christ
and Christ in us.**

Post Communion Sentence:

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient,
but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4: 18

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 God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life be with you, with all those you love, and with those you struggle to love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

Forth in Thy Name O Lord I go
 My daily labour to pursue
 Thou Lord alone I choose to know
 In all I think or speak or do

The task Thy wisdom has assigned
 Here let me cheerfully fulfil
 In all my work Thy presence find
 And prove Thy good and perfect will

Help me to Bear Thy easy yoke
 And every moment watch and pray
 And still to things eternal look
 And hasten to that glorious day

Gladly for Thee may I employ
 All that Thy generous grace has giv'n
 And run my earthly course with joy
 And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.

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. 456
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