

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



**Sunday, 16 March 2025**  
*Lent 2*

**Processional Hymn:**

O Jesus I have promised  
to serve You to the end  
be now and ever near me  
my Master and my Friend  
I shall not fear in battle  
if You are by my side  
nor wander from the pathway  
if You will be my guide

O let me feel You near me  
the world is ever near  
I see the sights that dazzle  
the tempting sounds I hear  
my foes are ever near me  
around me and within  
but Jesus draw still nearer  
and shield my soul from sin

O let me hear You speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion  
the murmurs of self-will  
O speak to reassure me  
to hasten or control  
and speak to make me listen  
O Guardian of my soul

O let me see Your footmarks  
 and in them place my own  
 my hope to follow truly  
 is in Your strength alone  
 O guide me, call me, draw me  
 uphold me to the end  
 and then in heaven receive me  
 my Saviour and my Friend.

### **Welcome and Greeting:**

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

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,  
 the love at our beginning and without end,  
 in our midst and with us.

**God is with us, here we find new life.**

### **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.

*Silence*

**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:**

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 3:20*

**Collect:**

**God of life and glory, Your Son was revealed in splendour before He suffered death upon the cross. Grant that we, beholding His Majesty, may be strengthened to follow Him and be changed into His likeness from glory to glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God now and for ever. Amen.**

**A reading from the book of Genesis:**

*Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 27:**

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation, whom then shall I fear?:

**the Lord is the Stronghold of my life,  
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked close in on me to devour me:

**it is they, my enemies and my foes who stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid:

**if war should arise against me, even then I will not be *dismayed*.**

One thing I have asked of the Lord, which I long for:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

to gaze on Your beauty O Lord:

**and to seek You in Your Temple.**

For in the time of trouble You will give me shelter:

**You will hide me under the cover of Your tent,  
and set me high upon a rock.**

And now You have raised my head:

**above my enemies round about me.**

Therefore I will offer in Your dwelling a sacrifice with great gladness:

**I will sing and give praise to You O Lord.**

Hear my voice O Lord when I call:

**have mercy on me and answer me.**

Of You my heart has said, 'Seek God's face':

**Your face Lord I will seek.**

Do not hide Your face from me:

**or reject Your servant in anger.**

You have been my helper:

**do not cast me off, or forsake me O God my Saviour.**

Though my father and my mother forsake me:

**the Lord will take me up.**

Teach me Your Way O Lord:

**and lead me by a level path, safe from those  
who lie in wait for me.**

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies:

**for liars, and those who breathe out malice,  
have risen up to witness against me.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord:

**in the land of the living.**

Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage:

**yes, wait I say for the Lord.**

**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 letter to the Philippians: *Philippians 3:17-4:1***

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 sing  
 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 Luke  
**Praise and glory to God.**

*Luke 13: 31-35*

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 those who lead the Anglican Church in our Province, and for the people of the Ōpōtiki Parish, the tikanga rua relationship with the Te Kaha Rohe, and their clergy.

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

### 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:**

How deep the Father's love for us  
 how vast beyond all measure  
 the He should give His only Son  
 to make a wretch His treasure  
 How great the pain of searing loss  
 the Father turns His face away  
 as wounds which mar the Chosen One  
 bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon the cross  
 my sin upon His shoulders  
 ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
 call out among the scoffers  
 It was my sin that held Him there  
 until it was accomplished  
 His dying breath has brought me life  
 I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
 no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom  
 but I will boast in Jesus Christ  
 His death and resurrection  
 Why should I gain from His reward  
 I cannot give an answer  
 but this I know with all my heart  
 His wounds have paid my ransom.



**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.

*By Christ's journey into darkness are we all brought home;  
by His agony and bloody sweat are we come finally to life;  
the tree of shame is now the tree of glory.*

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 pray 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.**

**Prayers after Communion:**

Most loving God, Creator and Redeemer,  
we give You thanks for this foretaste of Your glory.

**Through Christ and with all Your saints, we offer ourselves  
and our lives to Your service. Send us out in the power  
of Your Spirit, to stand with You in Your world. We ask this  
through Jesus Christ the Servant, our Friend and Brother. 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 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:**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me  
let me hide myself in Thee  
let the water and the blood  
from Thy riven side which flowed  
be of sin the double cure  
cleanse me from its guilt and power

Not the labours of my hands  
can fulfil Thy law's demands  
could my zeal no respite know  
could my tears forever flow  
all for sin could not atone  
Thou must save and Thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring  
simply to Thy cross I cling  
naked come to Thee for dress  
helpless look to Thee for grace  
foul, I to the fountain fly  
wash me Saviour or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath  
when my eyelids close in death  
when I soar through tracts unknown  
see Thee on Thy judgment throne  
Rock of Ages cleft for me  
let me hide myself in Thee.

**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.**