

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



**Sunday, 15 March 2026**  
*Lent 4, Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday*

**Processional 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

Thou I would set at my right hand  
Whose eyes my inmost secrets view  
And labour on at Thy command  
And offer all my work to Thee

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.

### **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 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*

*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:**

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow Me will have the light of life.'

*John 8:12*

**Collect:**

**God of unchangeable power, when You fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy. Open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good. To the honour of Your glorious Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**A reading from the first book of Samuel: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23:**

The Lord is my Shepherd:  
**therefore can I lack nothing.**

You Lord make me lie down in green pastures:  
**and lead me beside the waters of peace.**

You revive my spirit:  
**and guide me in right pathways for Your Name's sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil:  
**for You are with me, Your rod and Your staff are my comfort.**

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies:  
**You have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is overflowing.**

Surely Your goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord 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 Paul's letter to the Ephesians: *Ephesians 5: 8-14***

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

**Gradual Hymn:**

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt  
Fightings and fears, within, without  
O Lamb of God, I come

Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down  
Now to be Thine, yea Thine alone  
O Lamb of God, I come

Just as I am, of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove  
Here for a season, then above  
O Lamb of God, I come.

### **Gospel:**

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

**Praise and glory to God.**

*John 9: 1-41*

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 the staff of Anglican Financial Care and for the  
people of the Waikohu Co-operating Parish and their clergy.

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

**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:**

Faithful Shepherd feed me  
in the pastures green  
faithful Shepherd lead me  
where Your steps are seen

Hold me fast and guide me  
in the narrow way  
so with You beside me  
I need never stray

Daily bring me nearer  
to the heavenly shore  
make my faith grow clearer  
help me love You more

Consecrate each pleasure  
every joy and pain  
You are all my treasure  
all I hope to gain

Day by day prepare me  
as Your purpose best  
mercy shall pursue me  
to Your promised rest.

### **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.

When we sinned and turned away, You brought us back to Yourself and gave Your Son to share our human nature.

*Who though tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin; through Him therefore, we may triumph over sin and grow in grace.*

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 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:**

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.**

### **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.

### **Communion**

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

God of mercy, may we who have shared in this holy meal know Your forgiveness in our lives, bring Your reconciliation to others, and be a sign of Your wholeness in this broken world.

**Father, we offer ourselves to You as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of Your Spirit to live and work to Your praise and glory. Amen.**

### **LITURGY MARKING THE END OF A PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP**

This church, like any community, changes.  
Babies are born. Children grow up.  
Loved ones and friends grow old.  
People move into our community and church.  
Others leave us, moving on to new places,  
new experiences and new opportunities.

Let us not forget that the ministry of this Parish is Christ's ministry, entrusted to us as part of his Body.  
Our ministry belongs to Jesus and is ongoing.

In July 2023, this Parish, the Diocese of Waiapu and The Reverend Tony Kippax, entered into a covenant of ministry. It is now time to mark the ending of that covenant, giving thanks for the life we have shared together in Christ. We are now to begin the next stage of the journey to which God now calls us.

*Let us pray together...*

**O God, we give You thanks for the time and the faith shared in the communities served by this Parish. We give You thanks for the faithful ministry of Tony among us.**

**We thank You for the worship, the learning, and the service that have been ours together. Be with us now as we mark the ending of this relationship and guide us by Your Spirit into the next stage of our life with You. Amen.**

**Bishop Andrew:** Tony, you were called and licensed by the Bishop of Waiapu to serve as a Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in this place.

**Tony:** Members and friends of this parish and community, I thank you for your love, kindness, generosity, and support during our time together. I give thanks to God for guiding us through the growth and struggles, the surprises and opportunities we have shared. I ask for your forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

**Congregation**

**We acknowledge your thankfulness and offer our forgiveness.**

**We ask you to forgive us for our mistakes.**

**We are grateful for your guidance and your gifts.**

**All**

**As we journey into the future,  
may we know God's grace and peace.**

**Bishop Andrew:** Will you, the people of this Parish release Tony from his duties as Vicar in this place, and from the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care here?

**Congregation: We will, with God's help.**

**Bishop Andrew:** Will you respect the new relationship that now begins for Tony, and offer your encouragement and prayers as he settles into the next stage of his life?

**Congregation: We will, with God's help.**

**Bishop Andrew:** Will you, Tony, release this parish from their engagement with you as their Vicar – their leader and minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care?

**Tony:** I will, with God's help.

**Bishop Andrew:** Will you respect the new relationships that will now begin and offer your encouragement and prayers for continuing ministry here at the Parish of Ōtūmoetai?

**Tony:** I will, with God's help.

*Tony hands over his licence as Vicar.*

**Bishop Andrew:** I accept back the licence that is both yours and mine, and on behalf of the Diocese of Waiapu and the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia, and I bear witness to the words spoken – words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release.

*Tony hands over the key to the church.*

This key is a symbol of the duties and the stewardship of the sacred places within this parish, as well as my entry to them.

I relinquish them in gratitude for all we have done in our time together, and all we have been for one another.

**Bishop Andrew:** Tony, may you go surrounded by our love, led by the promises of the living God, the presence of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Spirit of Life.

Companion God, You have promised to be with us and ahead of us on all our journeys. Bless and empower Tony as he concludes this mahi of service and encouragement, connection and challenge. Guide and strengthen him by your Spirit as he moves on to new ways of ministry and service.

**Congregation**

**Continue walking with Christ in love and service. Take with you all we have shared. May our memories be springs of water when we are thirsty; rays of light when we are in darkness; and reason for rejoicing always.**

**May God bless and keep us all. Amen.**

**Bishop Andrew:** Faithful God, from age to age You gather a people to Yourself; we thank You for all who have served You in this Diocese; send your Holy Spirit to give us understanding of the past, a vision for the future, and wisdom in all we undertake.

These prayers and praises we bring to you, O God, through Jesus our Redeemer, who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. 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:**

Love divine, all loves excelling  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling  
All Thy faithful mercies crown  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art  
Visit us with Thy salvation  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast  
Let us all in Thee inherit  
Let us find the promised rest  
Take away the love of sinning  
Alpha and Omega be  
End of faith, as its beginning  
Set our hearts at liberty

Come, Almighty, to deliver  
Let us all Thy life receive  
Suddenly return, and never  
Nevermore Thy temples leave  
Thee we would be always blessing  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing  
Glory in Thy perfect love

Finish, then, Thy new creation  
True and spotless let us be  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till in heav'n we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

**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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