

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



Sunday, 13th September 2026
Ordinary Time 24

Processional Hymn:

Morning has broken like the first morning;
 blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
 Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
 praise for them, springing fresh from the word

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
 like the first dewfall on the first grass.
 Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
 sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning
 born of the one light Eden saw play.
 Praise with elation, praise every morning,
 God's re-creation of the new day.

Welcome and Greeting:

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

Call to Worship:

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.**

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.**

Silence

Confession:

As we move through this Season of Creation, we lament all that we do to each other and to this world.

Silence

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity;
yet we have misused the earth
and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You have brought order out of chaos,
light in darkness, good out of evil,
but we have preferred darkness
in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You have showered us with blessings,
but we have been grudging towards others
and lacking in generosity in word and deed.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

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.

Sentence:

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Psalm 130:3–4

Collect:

**God of infinite mercy
in our ignorance and selfishness
we so often fail to care for your Creation,
may your Holy Spirit soften and unite our hearts
with all living beings who suffer;
through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever
Amen.**

A reading from the book of Exodus: *Exodus 14:19-31*

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

Psalm 114

When Israel came out of Egypt:
**the house of Jacob
from among a people of an alien tongue,**

Judah became the Lord's temple:
and Israel became God's kingdom.

The sea fled at the sight of it:
and Jordan turned back in its course.

The mountains skipped like rams:
and the hills like yearling sheep.

Why was it that you fled O sea:
and you Jordan that you turned back,

you mountains that you skipped like rams:
and you hills like yearling sheep?

Tremble O earth at the presence of the Lord:

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turned the hard rock into a pool of water:

and the flint-stone into a gushing spring.

**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 Romans: *Romans 14:1-12*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

*A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you*

By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another

*A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you*

Gospel:

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

Praise and glory to God.

Matthew 18:21-25

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith - We Believe

We believe in God the Creator,
who reminds us, in the drawing of the every new day,
that new life is possible.

We believe in the wonder and grandeur of a universe
where the whole of life is called to live
in harmony of care.

This we believe.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who prayed in mountains of peace,
and brought us the Word
in mustard seeds of faith and fig trees of blessing,
whose footsteps touched the earth in love
and who invites us to follow.

This we believe.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
whose wisdom often lies
embedded in ancient peoples.
They trod lightly across deserts and
lived gently among plants and creatures.
They reached respectfully for the mystery,
which is God-with-us,
the One who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

This we believe.

We believe in the everlasting hope,
the great calling of the people of God, the church,
for the transforming of all things,
which is possible in God.

This we believe. Amen.

Dorothy McRae-McMahan, Uniting Church in Australia.

Prayers of the People:

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

Today we pray for the H&W Williams Memorial Trust who continues to honour the legacy and vision of Henry and William Williams, who came to Aotearoa New Zealand as missionaries among Maori from 1823-1876, and we pray for the Hato Hone/St John Chaplains in our Diocese.

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

The Peace:

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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:

Teach me, my God and King,
in all things thee to see;
and what I do in anything
to do it as for thee

A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy

All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean
which, with this tincture, For thy sake,
will not grow bright and clean

A servant with this clause
 makes drudgery divine;
 who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
 makes that and the action fine

This is the famous stone
 that turneth all to gold;
 for that which God doth touch and own
 cannot for less be told.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table:

God of all creation, you bring forth
 bread from the earth
 and fruit from the vine.
 By your Holy Spirit this bread and wine
 will be for us
 the body and blood of Christ.

**All you have made is good.
 Your love endures 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 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.**

Silence

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka waiata tātou:

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
 Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
 Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
 Kia meatia tāu e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,
 kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
 Hōmai ki a mātou āiane
 he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
 Murua ō mātou hara, Me mātou hoki e muru nei
 i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
 Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
 Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
 Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,
 Āke āke āke. Āmine.**

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.**

Communion

Prayer After Communion

**Lord of all Creation,
 as we have received the bread and wine,
 Fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,
 so with joy we celebrate your goodness
 And commit ourselves to serve you on your earth,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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:

God, i te Kai-hanga, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of God's creation.

Amen

God, i te Kai-whakamārie, who bears our pain and redeems the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into God's harvest.

Amen

God, i te Kai-hōmai i te ora, whose breath fills the whole creation with
life, help you to bear God's fruits of love, joy and peace

Amen

and the blessing of i te Kai-hanga (Creator), i te Kai-whakamārie (Pain
Bearer), i te Kai-hōmai i te ora (Giver of Life) rest upon you, those you
love and those who love you, and those you struggle to love
this day and always

Recessional Hymn:

Creation sings! Each plant and tree,
each bird and beast in harmony;
the brightest star, the smallest cell,
God's tender care and glory tell
from oceans depths to mountain peaks,
in praise of God creation speaks!

Creation speaks a message true,
reminds us we are creatures, too:
to serve as stewards in our role,
despite our dreams of full control –
when we disparage what God owns,
in turmoil, all creation groans

Creation groans to see the day
which ends all bondage, all decay:
frustrated now, it must await
the Lord who comes to recreate
to round the universe there rings
the song his new creation sings!

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
Thanksgiving and Praise and is used in accordance with GSTHW Canons and regulations.
All songs are reproduced under CCLI Licence No.: 21071.