

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



Sunday, 14 September 2025
Ordinary Time 24/Holy Cross Day

Processional Hymn:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adores His sacred Name*

Come, Christians follow where the Captain trod
the king victorious Christ the Son of God
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adores His sacred Name*

This is the sign that Satan's armies fear
and angels veil their faces to revere
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adores His sacred Name*

From north and south, from east and west they raise
in growing unison their songs of praise
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adores His sacred Name*

O Lord once lifted on the tree of pain
draw all the world to seek You once again
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adores His sacred Name*

Set up Your throne that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adores His sacred Name.*

Welcome and Greeting:

In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship:

E te whānau a te Karaiti, welcome to this holy table; welcome to you,
for we are Christ's body, Christ's work in the world. Welcome to you
whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world.

Rejoice and be glad. Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.

Praise and glory to Christ, God's new beginning for humanity
making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

**Love and loyalty to Christ Who gives us the gospel.
Praise to Christ Who calls us to holiness.**

Song of Praise:

Christ is the good Shepherd who knows and cares for every one of
the sheep in different folds. In Christ there is neither Jew nor
Gentile; in Christ there is no discrimination of gender, class or race.
In Christ the poor are blessed; the simple receive truth hidden from
the wise.

**Alleluia! God of justice and compassion
You give us a work to do and a baptism
of suffering and resurrection.**

**From You comes the power to give to others
the care we have ourselves received,
so that we and all who love Your world,
may live in harmony and trust.**

Confession:

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be
and do as members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.

**Loving and all-seeing God, forgive us where we have failed
to support one another and to be what we claim to be.**

**Forgive us where we have failed to serve You;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to Yours we ask Your pardon.**

Absolution:

God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection,
reconciliation for all the human race.

**We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together.
Praise to God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world.**

Sentence:

We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world is crucified to us and we to the world.

Galatians 6: 14

Collect:

Jesus, crucified and risen, You have turned a criminal's cross into release and reconciliation. Let us who are marked with the cross be not ashamed to witness to You; for the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

A reading from the book of Numbers: *Numbers 21: 4b-9*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98: 1-5

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.

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 Cor 1: 18-24

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Melt us, mould us, fill us, use us
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Gospel:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Praise and glory to God.

John 3: 13-17

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith:

**You, O God are supreme and holy
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to You.**

**You have revealed and proved Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be Your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; You overcome death.**

You are our God. We worship You.

Prayers of the People:

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

Today we pray for Anglican Financial Care and for the people of the Edgecumbe-Kawerau Parish and their Ministry Support Team.

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

**Praise to You abundant God, for when we ask, You give;
when we seek, You show the way.
When we knock, You answer.
Praise to You for Your unfailing grace.
Make us now Your faithful people. Amen.**

The Peace:

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace.

Who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.

Praise to Christ Who unites us in peace.

Offertory Hymn:

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count as loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the cross of Christ My God
The very things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood

See from His head, His hands, His feet
sorrow and love flow mingled down
When did such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

The Great Thanksgiving:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift your hearts to heaven.

Where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

*Ko te hari mo to mātou whakaoranga, e te Atua o Tua-whakarere,
ki te tuku whakawhetai ki a koe i roto i a Ihu Karaiti.*

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe, to give You thanks
through Jesus Christ.

You said: 'Let there be light'; there was light. Your light shines on in our darkness. For You the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear Your Word, to do Your will and to be fulfilled in Your love. It is right to thank You. You sent Your Son to be for us the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

You sent Your Son to give His life to release us from our sin.
His cross has taken our guilt away.

*I tukua mai e koe tau Tama kia whakamatea hei toha i te ora,
hei wewete i o mātou hara. Kua unuhia o mātou he e tona ripeka.*

*Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again:
Christ is Sovereign over space and time.*

You send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide,
to warn and to revive Your Church. Therefore, with all Your
witnesses who surround us on every side, countless as
heaven's stars, we praise You for our creation and our calling
with loving and with joyful hearts.

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just, glory and goodness
come from You. Glory to You, most high and gracious God.**

Blessed are You, most holy in Your Son, who washed His disciples'
feet. 'I am among you' He said, 'as one who serves.'

On that night before He died, He took bread, and gave 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, and gave You thanks.
He gave it to them and said:

'Drink this. It is My blood of the new covenant shed for you,
shed for all to forgive sin; do this to remember Me.

Therefore, with this bread and wine we recall Your goodness to us.

**God of the past and the present, we Your people remember
Your Son. We thank You for His cross and rising again,
we take courage from His ascension; we look for His
coming again in glory, and in Him we give ourselves to You.**

Send Your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share His cup
draw strength from the one true vine.

*Ka aru mātou i a te Karaiti. Tui, tui, tuituia mātou.
Tuia, ki te mamea. Tuia ki te tumanako.
Tui, tui, tuia ki te ora.*

**Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.**

For You the heavenly One make all things new;
You are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

*Kei a koe, te whakapai, te korōria, te aroha,
I tēnei ra, i tena ra, mai i a mātou, mai i te katoa.
I konei, i nga wahi katoa. Amine.*

**Praise, glory, and love be Yours, this and every day,
from us and all people, here and everywhere. 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:

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

Christ is risen from the dead.

The Invitation:

Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

Prayers after Communion:

*Jesus said: "When I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw all people to Myself."*

John 12: 32

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**Therefore, we offer all that we are
and all that we shall become.**

Accept O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all You have done.

Our hands were empty, and You filled them.

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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you,
with all those you love/pray for, and with those you struggle to love,
this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One

*Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done*

Jesus my Redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain

*Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done*

When I stand in glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place

*Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done*

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. 476
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