

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 17th September 2023
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Processional Hymn

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here,
Come, bow before Him now, with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Welcome and Greeting

In the name of God,
the Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life.

Amen.

Welcoming remarks, Notices and Celebrations

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 living water cleansing, refreshing, making all things new.
Christ is the living bread; food for the hungry,
strength for the pilgrim and the labourer.

**So now we offer our thanks
for the beauty of these islands;
for the wild places and the bush,
for the mountains, the coast and the sea.**

**We offer thanks and praise to God for this good land;
for its trees and pastures, for its plentiful crops
and the skills we have learned to grow them.**

**Our thanks for marae and the cities we have built;
for science and discoveries,
for our life together,
for Aotearoa, New Zealand.**

Forgiveness

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

**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

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
grant that we who know Your pity
may rejoice in Your forgiveness
and gladly forgive others
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Genesis

Realising that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as He is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Genesis 50:15-21

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-13

⁸You are full of compassion and mercy:
slow to anger and rich in kindness.

⁹**You will not always be chiding:
nor do you keep Your anger for ever.**

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins:
nor punished us according to our wickedness.

¹¹**For as the heavens are high above the earth:
so great is your mercy over those who fear You.**

¹²As far as the east is from the west:
so far have You put away our sins from us.

¹³**As parents have compassion on their children:
so do you Lord
have compassion on those who fear You.**

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 Romans

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord.

Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Romans 14:1-12

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

Gradual hymn

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness
ev'n for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill:
for Thou art with me; and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou has furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Gospel

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

Praise and glory to God.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and

payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Matthew 18:21-35

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word

Sermon

Prayers of the People

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

Today we pray for the Archbishops of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia and for the Board and staff of Anglican Financial Care.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Isabel, Sheryll, Taylor, Viv, David, Kerri, Craig, Reg.

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down You are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising,
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting You besiege me:
in ev'ry moment of life or death, You are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
You have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although Your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from Your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape You:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For You created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am I praise You:
safe in Your hands, all creation is made new.

Offertory prayer

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 Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

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 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.

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 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 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.

**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.

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

As Christ teaches us we pray, (singing)

**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 for ever. 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.

All are invited. Come to this table and share God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God.**

Communion hymn

Come down, O Love divine
seek out this soul of mine
and visit it with Your own ardour glowing
O Comforter, draw near
within my heart appear
and kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing

O let it freely burn
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming
and let Your glorious light
shine ever on my sight
and make my pathway clear by Your illuming

Let holy charity
my outward vesture be
and lowliness become my inner clothing
true lowliness of heart
which takes the humbler part
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing

And so the yearnings strong
with which the soul will long
shall far surpass the power of human telling
for none can guess its grace
till we become the place
in which the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Prayers after Communion

God our Creator,
You feed Your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessed be God who calls us together.
Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.
Praise to 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

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace and may
the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life, be with you
and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

Concluding Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish – but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; oh, help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth 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.

OT after Pentecost: Thanksgiving & Praise p. 476



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