

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



Sunday, 4th October 2026

Ordinary Time 27

Season of Creation 5 – Feast of Saint Francis

Processional Hymn:

To you, O God, all creatures sing,
and all creation, everything
Sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam,
your silver moon with softer gleam
sing your praises,
allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu—ia

Your wind that blows the tempest by,
your clouds that sail across the sky
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song,
and lights of evening sing along,
sing your praises,
allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu—ia

Your flowing waters, crystal clear,
make melodies for you to hear,
Sing your praises, allelu-ia!
Your fire... bountiful and bright,
remembering your warmth and light,
sing your praises,
allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu—ia

To you, O God, day after day,
your planet earth in every way,
Sings your praises, allelu-ia!
As savoury fruit and fragrant flower
show forth your glory and your power,
sing your praises,
allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu—ia

Now we who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take our part,
Sing your praises, allelu-ia!
To you we lift our pain and care,
receive the burdens that we bear,
sing your praises,
allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu—ia

In you, a kind and gentle death
prepares to hush our final breath
Singing praises, allelu-ia!
Christ goes before us to renew
the way that leads us home to you.
Hear our praises,
allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu-ia, allelu--ia

Welcome and Greeting:

In the name of God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit
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

**Here and in all your churches throughout the world
we adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**

Confession:

In this Season of Creation, on this 800th anniversary of Saint Francis' death, we lament all that we do to each other and to this world.

Silence

We look upon your waters, O God, and we grieve:

Rivers run polluted.

Oceans choke with plastic.

Marine life disappears from warming seas.

Coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

The seas rise and swallow coasts.

Storms grow stronger.

Floods destroy homes.

Drought cracks the Earth and children thirst.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We confess that we have not guarded your waters.

We have consumed water without restraint.

We have polluted what you called good.

We have forgotten that the river of life flows from your throne.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

That we might live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service after the example of St. Francis, in silence let us confess our sins and rejoice in our utter dependence on God.

(Silence)

Absolution:

God's mercy flows like living water. The love of God, incarnate in Jesus who spoke to troubled waters, forgives us and calms our hearts so that justice may flow to all the dry places in our lives. In the name of Christ, may this grace free us to follow and proclaim the good news of the healing of all creation.

Come. Eternal Creator

Come, Light of our hearts,

Come, generous Spirit,

By the glory of your creation,

By the comfort of your forgiveness,

By the wind of your Spirit, Renew us,

So that we may give witness to your presence amongst us. Amen.

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:

Forgetting what lies behind and straining for what lies ahead, let us press
on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ
Jesus. *Philippians 3:13b–14*

Collect:

**O God, you show your glory throughout your Creation,
calling it very good:**

**Grant us the fullness of your blessing,
that we, stewarding your garden,
may become partakers in your joy;
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 20:1-4,7-9,12-20*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
**the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;**

the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent
do not let them have dominion over me.
**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**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 3:4b-14*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury your pardon, Lord;
And where there is doubt, true faith in you

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Gospel:

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

Praise and glory to God.

Matthew 21:33-46

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith - We Believe

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one,
the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world
and suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.**

We believe in everlasting life in God.

**And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to
death and all destructive forces.**

(Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted)

Prayers of the People:

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

Today we pray for the Moana Community of St Clare in Fiji, and all those
who are in similar communities that care for the vulnerable and
marginalised, and we pray for Chaplains to Retired Clergy & Spouses.

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

The Peace:

Following St. Francis, we are called to promote the way of love and unity with all creation. Let us be strengthened by the peace of Christ that we may be peacemakers

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie, o te Ariki, ki a koutou
(The peace of the Lord be always with you.)

And also with you. (A ki a koe ano hoki)

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory 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.

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.

The created universe praises you, its creator.
Sun and rain, hills and rivers praise you.
The fruit of the earth itself praises you:
Wheat and grape, this bread and wine,
are part of the riches of your earth.

**You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and through your will they have their being.**

You made us in your image
and were faithful even when we turned against you.
You loved us so much you gave us your Son
that we may no longer be slaves to sin
but rise to life with him.
You inspire us with the example
of your servant Francis who,
filled with the fire of your love

and bearing the wounds of Christ.,
encourages us to carry the Cross for love of you.
You lift us up to join the songs of heaven.

**Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain,
to receive all power and wealth, wisdom and might,
honour and glory and praise!**

Until the kingdom of God comes
we keep the feast that Jesus began.
The night before he died, at supper with his friends
he took the bread and gave you thanks,
he broke it and shared it:
“my body, given for you.”

After supper he took the cup of wine:
**‘the new covenant sealed with my blood.
Do this in remembrance of me.’**

We celebrate his offering of himself once for all on the cross,
his resurrection, ascension, and coming again:
**You chose us to be your people
You called us a royal priesthood
We offer you the sacrifice of praise.**

We are your new creation in Christ.
Fill us with your Spirit,
to bring good news to the poor,
to heal the broken-hearted,
to announce release to captives
and freedom to prisoners.
As we eat this bread and drink this wine:

**Come, Holy Spirit, flow through us,
fill our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
with your power and love.**

With all in heaven we worship you in
songs of everlasting praise:

**Holy, holy, holy:
God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky and all that lives,
declare your presence and your glory.**

Silence

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 are one with Christ in praise and glory, heirs of his kingdom.
We break this bread to share in Christ's body.
We take and eat to proclaim Christ's death today.**
**We live by faith in the promises of Christ's covenant.
We have this wine to share in Christ's blood.
We take and drink to proclaim Christ's death today.**

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.**

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua, tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti
(Come God's people, come and receive Christ's heavenly food)

Communion

Prayer After Communion

Blessed Lord, as Francis found joy in creation, in beauty and simplicity, but perfect joy in sharing the sufferings of the world so may we, abiding in your love, receive your gift of perfect joy, and by the power of your Spirit radiate your peace, and find, even in suffering, the glory of God. 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:

In the words of the blessed Francis,
I bless you.

‘May whoever observes all these things
be filled in heaven with the blessings of the Most High
and on earth with the blessing of Jesus Christ
in union with the blessing of the Holy Spirit,
the Comforter,
and all the powers of heaven and all the saints,
and I, your poor servant,
as much as I am able, confirm for you this most holy blessing.”
Amen.

Recessional Hymn:

Spirit of springtime in creation's garden,
tingling the senses,
tickling the earth,
sap that is rising where the seed was sleeping,
push for a new world
coming to birth!

Heard in the song that sweeps from hill to ocean,
seen in the sunlight,
felt in the blood,
surge of delight at every greening, growing,
God in the promise,
blossom from bud.

Fresh as the rain that washes clean our vision,
keen as the wind on
Pentecost day,
bright as the Spirit in the life of Jesus,
bold as the mindset
thinking his way.

Springtime of hope from out of winter's clutches,
warm us to witness,
woo us to see--
beauty will break through rotted leaves and ashes,
joy will erupt and
life will leap free!

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.

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