



ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY
A SPIRITED PLACE WHERE PEOPLE STAND, CONNECT,
AND SEEK COMMON GROUND

THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2016

Processional Hymn

**Earth has many a noble city –
Bethlehem alone excels:
from it came the One from heaven,
came to rule his Israel.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing,
seen in human form on earth.**

**Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblations rich and rare;
see them give in deep devotion
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
frankincense God to disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaiming,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.**

**Jesus, whom the gentiles worshipped
at your glad epiphany,
now to you with God the Father
and the Spirit glory be.**

*Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.413)
Tune: Stuttgart, melody adapted from a chorale in 'Psalmodia Sacra', Gotha, 1715
harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870). TiS 349*

Welcome

Come people of God,
turn your hearts and minds to the light of Christ
even as we turn to the warmth of our summer sun.
Let us be ready to welcome the events and the people
who may become turning points in our lives.

**We welcome with eyes and hearts open,
ready to see God present in our summer world;
in the people we meet and in the things we do.**

Liturgist: This is what God asks of you:
to act justly, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly upon our earth.

**God of grace,
in whom we live and move and dance for joy,
guide our steps through the complexities of life;
widen our vision that our sight be not limited
by what we see,
nor our wisdom by what we know,
nor our love by what we can accept.
Amen.**

The Gloria

**Glorious are you, Mystery of Life,
essence of all creation.
You are the symphony of stars and planets.
You are the music of the atoms within us.
You are the dawn on mountain peaks,
the moonlight on evening seas.
Forest and farm, the rush of the city,
everything is embraced in your love.**

Glorious are you, O Jesus Christ,
Cosmic love in human flesh.
You graced the smallness of time and place
to teach us to dance to the music.
You walk on our seas and heal in our streets.
You make your home in our lives,
revealing that cross and resurrection
are one on the road to freedom.

**Glorious are you, O Spirit of Truth,
wisdom and breath of our being.
You are the wind that sweeps our senses.
You are the fire that burns in our hearts.
You are the needle of the inner compass,
always pointing to true North,
guiding us on the sacred dance
into the Mystery of Life. ¹**

Please be seated.

¹ Joy Cowley

Reconciliation

In this time of quiet

I invite you to reflect on life this holiday season.

Bring into the presence of God, in this place,

the joys and and burdens you carry with you this morning.

If you need forgiveness, seek it in the renewing love of God.

If you need healing, or courage, or wisdom,

seek it in the peace of God.

Jesus says,

“Ask, and it will be given to you;

search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9)

Silence.

Gracious God,

give us the wisdom to hold to what we need,

grace to let go of those things

that we can do without,

and a vision of your breadth, height, and depth

that will challenge our smallness of heart,

and bring us humbly together.

Priest:

Spirit of God hold us,

Spirit of God move us, Spirit of God burn within us,

so that we may light up the world with your love.

Sentence and Prayer for the Day

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
those who follow me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

**May our eyes be wide open
to see the glory of life in all its forms.
May our hearts be open
to experience life in the glory of diversity.
May our minds be filled with light and hope
as we walk the ways that bring fullness of life to all.
Amen.**

The First Reading

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect Light.**

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect Light.**

Words: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

Tune: Kings of Orient, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew,
chapter two, beginning at verse one.

Shine on our pathways.

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the Gospel of Christ.

May we hear wisdom.

The Sermon

Reflective Music

Please stand.

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.**

Please be seated.

The Prayers of the People

Let us be still and mindful of the world, the Church,
this nation, our communities, and ourselves.

The Peace

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you
and also with you.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

Offertory Hymn

**Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread,
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
lying in darkness does its life retain,
in resurrection to grow green again,
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Words: Shirley Murray

Tune: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). TiS 455

The Preparation of the Gifts

God, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of you,
our light and our hope.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Spirit is here

God's hope is in us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God

Let us give thanks to the God of peace

It is right to offer thanks and praise

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
creator, ever-living God,

through Jesus Christ your only Son:

for at this time we celebrate your revelation in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi

Jesus was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism he was revealed as your Son,
sent among us.

In the water made wine

the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just,
glory and goodness come from you.**

Glorify to you most high and gracious God.

On that night before he died
Jesus 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.

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one;
so may we be gathered into your kingdom.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

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.

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

Please be seated.

The Lord's Prayer

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki, ka inoi tatou:

**E to matou Matua i te rangi
kia tapu tou Ingoa.**

Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.

**Kia meatia tau e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.**

**Homai ki a matou aianeī
he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.**

**Murua o matou hara, me matou hoki e muru nei,
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.**

**Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;
engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:**

**Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te kororia,
Ake, ake, ake. Amine.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.²**

² The prayers are taken from the Church of England resources and A NZ Prayer Book

Te Powhiri

The Invitation

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua,
Tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

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

Come bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this grace.

*All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine;
there are gluten free wafers, just ask the serving priest.*

*There is a chalice for dipping –
simply hold the bread in front of you to signify your choice.*

*If you do not wish to take communion
you may come forward for a blessing.*

*If the stairs are a barrier please sit in the front pews
and communion will be brought to you.*

Te Taro o te Ora. *The Bread of Life.*

Te Kapu o te Ora. *The Cup of Salvation.*

Prayer after Communion

Priest:

God of abundant love and unexpected gifts.
We delight in your presence amongst us.

**We are glad we can gather around your table as friends
sharing the bread of life and wine of blessing.
In this holiday season
we will look for you in the smile of strangers,
we will honour you in the life of those we love,
we will be people of God and the Body of Christ
wherever we are.
Amen.**

The Blessing

Notices

Recessional Hymn

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching over flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord descending
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship Christ, the new-born King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.**

*Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)
Tune: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879). TiS 142*

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now to live the Gospel. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the power of Love.

Organ Voluntary

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to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.
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