



SUNDAY
DECEMBER

20



ADVENT 4

2020

INTROIT

O Emmanuel;

O Virgo Virginum

Great O Antiphons

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The people that in darkness walked
have seen a glorious light;
the light has shined on them who dwelt
in death's surrounding night.

To hail you, Sun of righteousness,
the gathering nations come:
rejoicing as when reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.

To us a child of hope is born,
to us a Son is given;
him shall the tribes of earth obey,
him all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
for evermore adored;
most Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread,
his reign no end shall know:
justice shall guard his throne above
and peace abound below.

*Words: John Morison (1750-1798) vv. 3-5 and compilers vv. 1-2
Tune: St Botolph, Gordon Archbold Slater (1896-1979). TIS 223*

WELCOME

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.

Liturgist:

Watch, wait, hope!

Even now, the tender leaves of peace
may be growing on the trees of life.

Watch, wait, hope!

For the wonder of new love
may be moving towards its birthing.

The Christ will come.

The Word of God will not fail us.

Keep awake!

For the shadows of our doubt will be lifted
and singing sounds in the distance.

The Christ will come.

The Word of God will not fail us.¹

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Our fourth Advent candle speaks to our hunger for love,
it speaks to our world's hunger for love.

The candle represents a future of love-filled possibilities
of a new way of living where love is real.

We are hungry for love.

Please be seated.

THE MAGNIFICAT (The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55)

Magnificat in B flat

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

¹ *Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days", adapted*

RECONCILIATION

Liturgist:

When love is hard to find
open our eyes to look again, O God.
Open our minds to search again
for your presence and your purpose.

Loving Spirit, search our hearts
and meet us in this place.

Silence

Within our darkest night, you kin-dle the fire that never dies a -
way, never dies a - way. Within our darkest night, you kin-dle the
fire that nev-er dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign, with a small number '2' at the bottom right.

We know
that we are the ones who are divided
and we are the ones who must come back together.
May we learn love, compassion, and honour
that we may heal the earth, each other, and ourselves.

Priest:

May we know the grace of forgiveness
and offer that grace to others.
May the fires of hope be rekindled among us,
giving light and warmth to the world.

Amen.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

It is not easy knowing what to do,
perhaps the best way is just to start. ³

We open our hearts and minds O God
to the perplexing issues of our world.
We pray that we will not be afraid
to recognise we do not know everything
and that we can live differently
following the Word of God active among us.

THE FIRST READING

A reading from "Liturgies of Life".

Oscar Romero "Liturgies of Life", p. 103

Let us wait,
and hope in God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Not the powerful, nor the privileged,
not the famous in the land,
but the no-ones and the needy
were the first to hold God's hand.

Not a well established family
with an heirloom christening shawl,
but a homeless, wandering couple
parented the Lord of All.

³ *Bryn Gandy, NZ Herald p A20 28 Nov 2020*

Not, at first, to little children,
nor to those whose faith burned bright,
But to adults, stalled in darkness,
angels brought God's love and light.

God, determined to be different
from the standards we think best,
in his choice of friends and family,
lets forgotten folk be blessed.

Not obsessed by our achievements,
worldly wealth or family tree,
may we, in and with God's chosen,
find our fondest pedigree.

*Words: John L Bell
Tune: Omni Die, arr. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895). TIS 101*

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke,
chapter one, beginning at verse twenty-six.



Shine on our path -ways.

Luke 1:26-38

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom.

THE SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

O thou, the central orb

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist:

Let us pray for those far and near, people and places,
powerful and powerless, all for whom we are concerned.

Congregational response:

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you. ⁴

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

We commit ourselves to live in peace as we work for it
to kindle peace within, between and beyond us.

For the peace of Jesus is an active peace
building, bridging and always dreaming.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN ⁵

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

⁴ Janet Morley "All desires known"

⁵ During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's;
for electronic giving option: text **stmatthew** to **818** to make a fast
one off or ongoing donation by credit card to St Matthew-in-the-City.
Or you can download the PUSHPAY app from Apple Store or Google
Playstore and search for St Matthew-in-the-City.

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify His holy name':
 most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
 in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
 and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'most highly favoured lady'. Gloria!

Words: Basque Carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Tune: Gabriel's Message, Basque traditional carol melody
arr. Charles Edgar Pettman (1866-1943). TIS 302

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
 blessing us with gifts to share.

Bless-ed be God for ev - er.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp). It features two triplet markings over the first six notes: 'Bless-ed be God' and 'for ev - er'. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Cantor *All*

Hope is a - mong us. We are God's light.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major. It starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There is a double bar line after the first four notes. The word 'light.' is under the final note.

Cantor *All*

Shine then with free - dom into all the cor - ners of the world.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There is a double bar line after the first four notes.

Cantor *All*

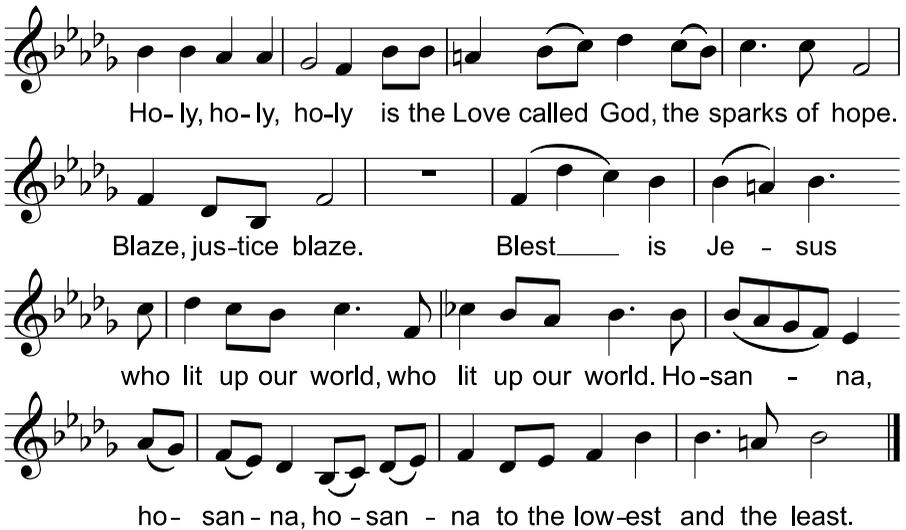
Lest fear overcome the bril - liance of life and light and lib - er - ty.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There is a double bar line after the first four notes. The word 'lib - er - ty.' is under the final note.

O God, Mystery of summer skies,
we thank you in the lengthening days
for opening our eyes to see your sunlit beauty;
for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light;
for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.

Jesus was promised by those who shared your dream of peace;
John the Baptist cleared the way with words of desert fire;
Mary and Joseph accepted his coming
with tenderness and faith;
we know that he draws near again
to show us who we really are with honesty and love.

Now we take up the song of hope
that we might awaken to his coming among us
and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:



Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho-ly is the Love called God, the sparks of hope.

Blaze, jus-tice blaze. Blest is Je - sus

who lit up our world, who lit up our world. Ho-san - na,

ho- san - na, ho - san - na to the low-est and the least.

On the night that he was betrayed, your Son Christ Jesus,
gathered with his faltering friends
for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.’

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

As on that night, so here and now
he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.



We of - fer bread to eat with eyes and hands held
o - pen. We pass this cup to share. We take, break,
bless and give kind-ling hope ev' - ry where.

Therefore, in our eating and drinking
we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ;
we proclaim him as creation's **host**,
transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.
We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts
that these fragile, earthly things may symbolize for us
the body and blood of our brother, Christ Jesus.

Inspire us with the Advent hope
that one day death and greed will be no more
and people without number will come from east and west,
north and south to share the kingdom meal.

All honour and glory be yours, Mother of blessings,
for ever and ever. **Amen.** ⁶

Please be seated.

⁶ Steven Shakespeare *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, adapted

TE POWHIRI

THE INVITATION

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

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

*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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ave maris stella

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest:

Most loving God, we are thankful for all we have shared
around this table of love.

We are thankful that through faith,
hope will overcome doubt,
love will overcome fear,
and light will overcome darkness.
May the blessing of light be on us:
light without and light within. Amen.

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) (based on Psalm 98)

Tune: Antioch, G. F. Handel (1685-1759), arr. by L. Mason (1792-1872). WOV 224

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now to dream together, pray together, work together,
to build one world of peace and justice for all.

Amen. We go in the light and promise of Christ.

VOLUNTARY

Fughetta No. 8, Op. 123b

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901)

*You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.*

Music for Liturgical responses is by Michael CW Bell

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Christmas

2020

SERVICE TIMES

13TH DECEMBER

8PM Christmas Readings & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

7PM Children's Nativity Service

9.30PM Brass Band Music

10.30PM Carols for Christmas

11.30PM Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

10AM Christmas Sung Eucharist



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