



# ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY

# THE EPIPHANY

## SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2015

### Processional Hymn

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience,  
and incense of lowliness  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows,  
and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou would reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them  
in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy  
give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

*Words: J. S. B. Monsell (1811-1879)  
Tune: Was lebet. TIS 160*

### Welcome

In these long summer days  
we gather to take stock of our lives,  
to give thanks for all we have received,  
to remember those who need our prayers,  
to break bread together  
and renew the hope we find in the Jesus story.  
All this we do in the presence of the God  
we find in this hallowed place,  
in our thoughts and dreams, and our neighbour.  
God is here, unfolding from each of us.  
**Let us rejoice in song and word and deed.**

*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.<sup>1</sup>**

*Please be seated.*

### Reconciliation

Hear the teaching of Christ:  
A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

Let us pause in silence, being aware of God within,  
between and beyond us.

*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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Joy Cowley

## Sentence and Prayer for the Day

The gloom of the world is but a shadow...behind it,  
yet within reach, is joy.  
There is radiance and glory in the darkness,  
could we but see...and to see, we have only to look.  
I beseech you to look.

*Fra Giovanni Giocondo (c.1435–1515)*

**Shepherd of Israel  
and Light of all Nations,  
made known in the gifts  
of those who call to other names  
and walk on different ways:  
may unjust powers  
and the hatred within us  
be dismayed by your friendship  
and dethroned by your love;  
through Jesus Christ,  
the open arms of grace.  
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

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Give you heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Now you hear of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this:  
He has oped the heavenly door,  
and all are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Now you need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save,  
calls you one and calls you all,  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**

*Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

*Tune: In Dulci Jubilo, 14th-cent. German carol melody. WOY 238*

## The Gospel

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

**Shine on or 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

**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.**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown Him again,  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.**

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

**Frankincense to offer have I.  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising people raising,  
worship Him, God on high.**

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

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breaths a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**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 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.  
Glory 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.**<sup>2</sup>

## 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:*

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.**

## The Blessing

## Notices

## Recessional 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*

*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

<sup>2</sup> *The prayers are taken from the Church of England resources and  
A NZ Prayer Book*