

Saint Matthew in the City

4th Sunday in Advent

18th December 2011

Processional Hymn

**Come, thou, Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall,
such grace befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed
the Saviour, now to man displayed.**

**O equal to the Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night distinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

*Words: St Ambrose c. 340-97,
tr. J M Neale 1818-66*

*Music: Puer Nobis Nascitur,
Melody adapted by M Praetorius 1571-1621*

Source TiS 194

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Liturgist

There are many people suffering in our world. They cry out for help. Yet we are bound by our own concerns and suffering. We are bound too by our lack of vision. We don't believe we can help.

To light even one candle is to say to the darkness of oppression: 'I beg to differ.' To light a candle is to claim the power to make a difference.

May the sparks of the God that is love
Ignite our passion for change

Offering the light of hope
To all who bravely differ.

The Words of Scripture

"Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you."

"God is love and those who abide in love abide in God."

"There is no fear in love."

Spirit of hope, search our hearts.

Let us pause in silence, listening for grace.

Please sit or kneel

Silence

We sing three times

With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the fire that nev-er dies a-
way, nev-er dies a-way. With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the
fire that nev-er dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way.

Together we pray

**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

'For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Luke 1:37

Together we pray

**God faithful and true,
make us eager with expectation,
as we look for the fulfilment of your promise
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**

Please sit for the sung Magnificat

The Magnificat

Opening chorus from "Magnificat Antiquitatis"
Michael CW Bell

The First Reading

A reading from the second book of Samuel

2 Sam 7:1-11,16

Let us wait

All: And know that God is here

Gradual Hymn

**Join hands in the Spirit,
the one holy name;
you are love, and we your children,
one and the same.**

**All glory to the Spirit,
all praise to your name,
for your love unites us
in peace once again.**

**Join minds in the Spirit,
the one source of life,
all are born in your image,
sparks of your light.
Oh joy that you will call us
to love and forgive,
to trust beyond fear,
that in death we may live.**

**Join hearts in the Spirit,
the one holy peace,
your love is our union,
your touch our release.
Oh great heart! embracing
every creed, every race,
in gratitude we cry
at the gift of your grace.**

*Words: Radha Wardrop
Music: Radha Wardrop, arr., Ian Render*

Source: AA 82

Gospel Reading:

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

Shine on our pathways.

Luke 1:26-38

This is the Gospel of Christ
May we hear wisdom.

The Sermon

Reflective Music

*'Jesus bleibet meine Freude' from Cantata BWV 147
JS Bach 1685-1750*

The Prayers of the People

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

The 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

We share a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

**The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love:
Jehovah, great I AM
by earth and heaven confessed!
I bow and bless the sacred name
for ever blest.**

**The God of Abraham praise,
whose all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my happy days
in all my ways.
He calls a worm his friend,
he calls himself my God;
and he shall save me to the end
through Jesus' blood.**

**He by himself hath sworn,
I on his oath depend:
I shall, on eagles' wings upborne,
to heaven ascend;
I shall behold his face,
I shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.**

**The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing:
and holy, holy, holy, cry,
almighty King.
Who was and is the same,
and evermore shall be;
Jehovah, Father, great I AM,
we worship thee.**

**Before the Saviour's face
the ransomed nations bow;
o'erwhelmed at his almighty grace,
for ever new:
he shows his prints of love,
they kindle to a flame,
and sound through all the worlds above
the slaughtered Lamb.**

**The whole triumphant host
gives thanks to God on high:
Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!
they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God, and mine!
I join the heavenly lays;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.**

Words: Thomas Olivers 1725-99
Music: Leoni, Hebrew Synagogue Melody
Transcribed by Meyer Lyon 1751-97

Source: TiS 125

The Great Thanksgiving

(In free time)

Cantor *All*



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

Cantor *All*



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

Cantor *All*



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

From the beginning, life has been shaped by despair, struggle, and triumph. Oppressive forces have time and again tried to destroy the hope of the marginalized and vulnerable. The forces of wealth and privilege, armies and theology, have beaten down upon the poor. Yet hope is never extinguished. When all seems lost the embers stir back into life, and the light of justice ignites again. For this we give deep and heartfelt thanks.

Shortly before Jesus died he gathered around him his closest friends... women and men who had shared in his despair, struggles, and triumphs. They met in a small upstairs room. The forces of power and self-interest were closing in. All their excitement, anticipation, and hopes were about to be put to death on a cross. In this moment Jesus took bread and wine, and likened it to his own life, broken and poured out for others.

In doing so he invited them and us to share in the brokenness of our world, and to share too in the healing of our world through self-giving love. In bread broken and wine poured out he initiated a new community. An upside-down community which believes that loving is more important than winning, doing what is right is more important than doing what is safe, and setting people free is more important than trying to control their lives. It is a community marked by justice and hope.

Therefore, with all who have struggled, dreamed, despaired, and triumphed we sing:

All



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

(organ)



Blaze, jus - tice blaze. Blest is Je - sus who lit up our world, who lit up our world.



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

And so we remember on the night before he died Jesus took bread; when he had given thanks he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

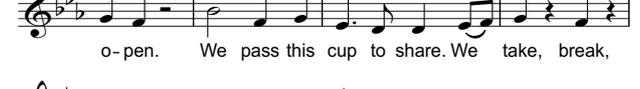
After supper he took the cup; when he had given thanks he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood which is shed for you and for many; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

With this bread and wine we remember the dream of God, and the call of God.

All



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.

Recalling the promise of tomorrow we wait out the long night of struggle,
Remembering our brother Jesus, our sister Mary, and all our spiritual forbears,
Rejoicing in the bonds of solidarity and the unquenchable Divine Energy
We take, eat and drink, knowing that the Spirit of God is here within and among us,
in simple food, in simple grace,
calling us to freedom's banquet.

O Candle of calm and peace, lending your beauty to our darkened corners:

Come and share your halo of light with us, to comfort and to guide.

O Star of the darkened sky, you lead us if we choose to follow,

By night and by day, seeing and not seeing, we journey towards the truth.

O Sudden Flare, you explode like a burst of match flame in the darkness:

Come and illumine our plans, protests, and petitions for justice.

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 te rangi. Homai ki a matou aianei 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 this bread to share in the hope of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

We sing *three* times

All



Stay with me, re - main here with me,



watch ___ and pray, ___ watch and pray.

The Invitation

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

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

Te Taro, o te Ora. The Bread of Life

Te Kapu o te Ora. The Cup of Salvation.

Music during Communion

Ave Maria (opus 2. No. 2)

Sir Edward Elgar 1857-1934

How beautiful upon the mountains

John Stainer 1840-1901

Prayer after Communion

I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the colour and fragrance of a flower – the Light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence.

Helen Keller

I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too will end, that peace and tranquillity will return once more.

Anne Frank

May the blessing of light be on us, light without and light within.

Celtic

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.

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Together we pray

**You are present, Spirit of God,
within us, your dwelling place and home.
This place is one where
All darkness is penetrated by your light,
All troubles calmed by your peace,
All evil redeemed by your love,
and all pain held within your hope. Amen.**

Notices

Blessing

May Divine Wisdom hold us in the palm of Her hand
and breathe into us gently Her life-giving Spirit.

May the light of the new dawn break over us
bringing insight, fresh courage and hope.

And may the fierce passion of the Love that is God
send us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Final Hymn

**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!***

**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!***

*Basque Carol, paraphrased
by Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924
Music: Gabriel’s Message, Basque trad.
arr. Charles Edgar Pettman 1866-1943*

Source: TiS 302

Liturgist from the rear of the Church:

Let us 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.

Organ Voluntary