SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT



St Matthew-in-the-City A spirited place where people stand, connect, and seek common ground

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2015

INTROIT

Above all praise

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Deep in the human heart the fire of justice burns: a vision of a world renewed through radical concerns. As Christians we are called to set the captives free, to overthrow the evil powers and end hypocrisy.

This is our task today
to build a world of peace;
a world of justice, freedom, truth,
where kindness will increase;
a world from hunger freed,
a world where people share,
where every person is of worth
and no one lives in fear.

Taking the step of faith we leave the past behind and move into the future's world with open heart and mind. By grace we work with Christ, as one community, to bring new hope and fuller life to all humanity.

Words: W. L. Wallace, 1990 Tune: Diademata, George Job Elvey (1816-1893). TiS 228

WELCOME

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

Liturgist:

Be with us, Spirit of God; for nothing can separate us from your love. Breathe on us, breath of God; and fill us with your loving presence. Speak in us, wisdom of God; and bring strength, healing and peace.

God of our days and years, we set this time apart to be still. Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may reflect you. Amen. 1

THE GLORIA





Liturgist:

Praise the Holy Name, whose word speaks all things into being, who created the forces of the universe and the laughter of children. Praise the Holy Name!

AII:



¹ Church of England

Liturgist:

Praise the living God: clouds and storms and ocean currents, fish in the sea and creatures of the deep, animals and cattle, insects and birds, praise the living God!

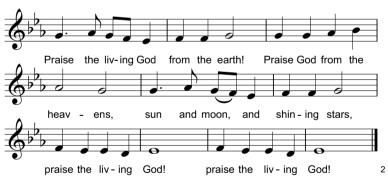
AII:



Liturgist:

Praise the Holy Name who did not rely only on angels and messengers but came among us in person, whose living presence saves us! Praise God's Holy Name!

AII:



Please be seated.

² Words: Brian Wren (adapted). Music: Michael Bell

Liturgist:

We come seeking forgiveness and wholeness for our ourselves and for our world.

FORGIVENESS





[Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy]

Ian Render. Tune: Newlands Road. FFS 13

Silence

God of life, in our indifference and helplessness we destroy your creation; we condone violence and ignore suffering; we do not act with compassion and justice. Breathe on us, God, this day, that we might be whole again. ³

Priest: God forgives us, forgive others, forgive yourself.

Children are invited to come forward to share in the Children's Conversation and there are activities on the side table.

³ Jenny Blood

ANTHEM

Hostias from Requiem Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The one who rules justly is like the light of morning. like the sun rising on a cloudless morning. gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

2 Samuel 23:3-4

God our desire whose coming we look for, but whose arrival is unexpected; here in the darkness make us urgent to greet you, and open yourself to our longing that we may be known by you. Amen. 4

THE FIRST READING

A reading of Psalm 33.

Psalm 33:1-5, 16-22

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

Thanks be to God.

Janet Morley

THE GRADUAL HYMN

Out of such sun and air what Christ may come, shining with new and lovely light on our dim and shrouded lives; stirring our sleepiness and dreams, visions of life beyond compare. Out of this sun and air come, Christ, however you will come.

Out of such cloud and mist what Christ may come, blurring the clear and simple lines of our settled scheme of things; calling on faith and hope and trust, daring to danger, trial and risk. Out of this cloud and mist come, Christ, however you will come.

Out of such sudden storm what Christ may come, sweeping across the startled sky of our calm and peaceful ways; driving with tempest winds of change, testing with tumult and reform. Out of this sudden storm come, Christ, however you will come.

Words: Colin Gibson, Tune: Northland, Colin Gibson, AA 114

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to John, chapter eighteen, beginning at verse thirty-three.



John 18:33-37

This is the Gospel of Christ.



"MARY WAITS"

A dance by Jennifer De Leon.

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.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.

A ki a koe ano hoki.

[The peace of Christ be always with you. And also with you.] Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

How the world longs for your birth, bearing news of human worth; to our labour bring your mirth:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

How the earth awaits your seed, parched and barren from our greed; now to hallow it we need:
Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

How we ache to know your peace; wars and weapons still increase; bid our fears and hate to cease: Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

How our minds for healing long, broken bodies to be strong, wounded hearts to learn your song: Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

God, who sets your people free, God, who comes, our flesh to be, now we wait, your reign to see: Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

To our darkness bring your light; fill our longing eyes with sight. In our lives shine ever bright: Maranatha, come, Lord, come.

Words: Anna Briggs Tune: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, Plainsong, as in Martin Luther's 'Enchiridia', Erfurt, 1524. TiS 295

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is right to give you thanks, Creator of all, for your voice alone brought light and life to birth when all began.

You called each one of us to be, and named us with the name that you alone could speak.

You called us to be lovers of creation, and to care for each other as you had cared for us.

But we betrayed your trust and we in turn became the victims of betrayal. The bond of trust became the bondage of division:

male and female, Jew and Gentile, slave and free, oppressor and oppressed.

Yet you in your love did not desert us, but instead Jesus came among us to seek us out, to gather in the lost and outcast.

He threw open the doors of freedom, casting out the darkness of our hearts and greeting us as God's beloved friends and children.

In place of judgment, Jesus gave us compassion; in place of condemnation, healing.

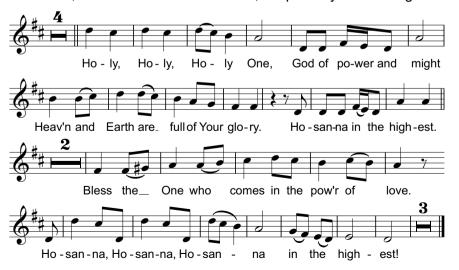
And even as he came to share our suffering,

he called us to be witnesses,

to follow in the way that led to the cross;

and to see with our own eyes the depths of your forgiveness.

Therefore, with all that have life in him, we praise you and sing:



On the night before he died, our friend and brother Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

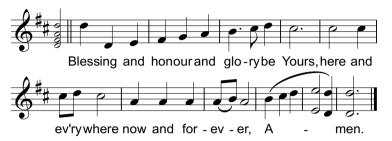
After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, loving God, we offer this bread and wine, giving thanks for his death and resurrection:



Now, as was promised, send us your loving Spirit, that this bread and this cup may represent the life-giving presence of your Christ, and make us one in your covenant of love.

Give us courage not to cling to what is past, but to proclaim the freedom of new life, as together we sing: ⁵



Please be seated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ake, ake, ake. Amine.

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 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,

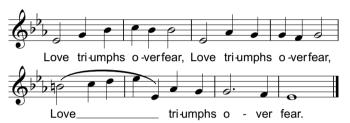
⁵ The Great Thanksgiving is adapted from a service from St Gregory of Nyssa. San Francisco

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

We sing three times:



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

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme; Zion hört die Wächter singen; Gloria sei dir gesungen (from Church Cantata BWV 140) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, whom we know in love and graciousness, we accept with gratitude all that lies within this sacred feast.

May we carry into the world the bread which brings life and the wine of compassion for all who wait in longing. This we pray in your name. Amen. 6

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

All my hope on God is founded; all my trust he will renew.
Through all change and chance he guides me, only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust; all we build with care and labour, tower and temple, fall to dust. But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

⁶ Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days", p. 126

God's great goodness lasts for ever, deep his wisdom, passing thought: splendour, light, and life attend him, beauty springing out of naught. Evermore from his store new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily the almighty giver will all bounteous gifts bestow; in his will our souls find pleasure, leading us where'er we go.
Love will stand at God's hand; joy shall wait for his command.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done, high above all praises praising for the gift of Christ his Son. Hear Christ call one and all: those who follow shall not fall.

Words: Robert Bridges (1844-1930) Based on the German of J. Neander (1650-1680) Tune: Michael, Herbert Howells (1892-1983). TiS 560(i)

Deacon from the rear of the Church.

Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land. **Amen. We go in the power of love.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

We invite you to keep this copy of the Service and take it home with you to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.

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