



# ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY

## CHRISTMAS EVE 2014



**Nau mai, haere mai; a warm welcome to St Matthew-in-the-City.  
We are glad you have come to celebrate Christmas with this community.  
We hope that you will find the Christmas spirit of peace and love in today's celebrations.**

### Processional Hymn

**SOLO:**

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

**CHOIR:**

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**ALL:**

**And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the loving mother  
in whose gentle arms he lay.  
Christian children all should be  
mild, obedient, good as he.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him: but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars his children crowned,  
all in white shall wait around.**

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)  
Tune: Irby, H. J. Gauntlett (1803-1876)  
harm. by A. H. Mann; Carols for Choirs 13*

### Welcome

Son of God, light that shines in the dark,  
Child of joy and peace,  
help us to come to you  
and be born anew this holy night.

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.**

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light this Christ candle –  
to remember the small and fragile ones  
who can change the world.

**In Jesus the divine vision of joy, justice,  
and love has been declared.  
May we bring that vision to birth.  
Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### Gloria

*Gloria (from "Puriri Mass") Michael CW Bell*

### Sentence and Prayer for the Day

I am bringing you good news of great joy  
for all the people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David,  
a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

*Luke 2:10-11*

**God of grace and truth,  
whose word brings light to birth  
in the heart of a darkening world,  
which fears a love it cannot name:  
may flesh be blessed and born anew  
by a truth which leaves the heavens  
and walks the waiting earth;  
through Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate.  
Amen. <sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Steven Shakespeare

## The First Reading

A reading from Psalm 98.

*Psalm 98:1-9*

Let us wait  
**and hope in God.**

## The Anthem

*"And there were shepherds" and "Break forth"  
from "Christmas Oratorio"  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

## Gradual Hymn

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born."**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from Thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), tr. J. F. Young (1820-1885)  
Tune: Silent Night, melody by F. X. Gruber (1787-1863). TiS 311*

## The Gospel

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



Shine on our path -ways.

*John 1:1-14*

This is the Gospel of Christ.



May we hear wis - dom.

## The Sermon

## Reflective Music

*Hymn to the Mother of God  
John Tavener (1944-2013)*

## The Prayers of the People

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

*To the words* Love called God

*We respond* **be born in us tonight.**

## 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.*

*If you wish to make a donation, please use the collection box  
at the rear of the church at the conclusion of the service.*

## Offertory Hymn

**O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'til he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.**

***Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.***

**Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
here come the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
in all our trials born to be our friend.**

***Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.***

**Truly he taught us to love one another;  
his law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break  
for the slave is our brother;  
and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy  
in grateful chorus raise we,  
let all within us praise his holy name.**

***Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.***

*Words: Placide Cappeau (1808-1877)  
Tune: O Holy Night, Adolphe Charles Adam (1803-1856)*

# The Great Thanksgiving

*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.

All life is holy, sacred;  
worthy of respect and dignity.  
Let us give thanks for the power of the heart  
to sense the holy in the midst of the simple.

Power and possibility of Love,  
we praise you and give you thanks,  
for on this night Jesus was born among us,  
a baby needy and naked,  
born into poverty and oppression,  
in order to proclaim the gift  
of your transforming grace and justice.

Therefore with all the faithful, living and dead,  
with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds,  
Magi, and angels,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
forever praising you and singing:

*All*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One,  
God of po - wer and might Heav'n and Earth are\_  
full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless the\_ One who comes in the  
pow'r of love. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san -  
na in the high - est!

On the night before he died Jesus took bread;  
when he had given 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;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you,  
for this is my blood which brings new life;  
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

With this bread and wine we answer 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.

Empower our celebration, Spirit of promise,  
feed us with your life, fire us with your love,  
confront us with your justice,  
and make us one with all who share your gifts of love.

*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 this bread to share in the life of Christ.  
**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

*"Hodie Christus natus est"*  
from "Ceremony of Carols"

*Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)*

## 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.

*There are three places to receive Communion –  
two in front of the Altar Table,  
and at the font between the front doors.*

*Gluten free wafers are available at the Altar Table station.*

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

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

### Music during Communion

*Cantique de Jean Racine*

*Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)*

### Prayer after Communion

Welcome, welcome,  
Jesus Christ our infant Saviour,  
baby who makes every birth holy.

**May we, who like the shepherds  
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love  
return to our work with joy.  
May we, for whom the heavens have opened  
to proclaim that God is with us,  
we who have fed on living bread  
and drunk the wine of heaven,  
go out to be instruments of your peace,  
day by day. Amen.**

### The Blessing

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep*

*Michael CW Bell*

## Final Hymn

**Hark! the herald angels sing:  
“Glory to the new-born King!  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th’angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th’incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

**Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
“Glory to the new-born King!”**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Tune: Mendelssohn. TIS 303*

*Deacon from the rear of the church:*

Go now, so the world may know  
the wonder and mystery of grace.

**Amen. We go in the power of Love.**

### Organ Voluntary

*Chorale Improvisation on*

*How Brightly Beams the Morning Star*

*Michael CW Bell*

If you want to know more about St Matthew's take a look at our website [www.stmatthews.org.nz](http://www.stmatthews.org.nz),  
like us on Facebook, follow our vicar on Twitter @RevHelenJacobi and @StMatthewsNZ .  
Feel free to take photos during our services and share them on Facebook and Twitter.

Toilets are located down the stairs on the left hand side of the church.  
An accessible toilet is located on the right hand side past the kitchen.

The Parish Office is now closed until Monday 12 January 2015.

Sunday services on 28 December and 4 January at 10am only;  
Sunday January 11 and onwards 8am and 10am.

Wednesday lunch time service resumes on Wednesday February 4 at 12.20pm.

Vicar: Rev Helen Jacobi [helen@stmatthews.org.nz](mailto:helen@stmatthews.org.nz)

Parish Office phone: (09) 379 06 25