



**ST MATTHEW-IN-THE-CITY**  
**A SPIRITED PLACE WHERE PEOPLE STAND, CONNECT,**  
**AND SEEK COMMON GROUND**

**THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS**  
**IN THE TEMPLE**

**SUNDAY 31 JANUARY 2016**

## Processional Hymn

**When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awakening cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised.  
Alike at work and prayer  
to Jesus I repair:  
may Jesus Christ be praised.**

**My tongue shall never tire  
of singing with the choir:  
may Jesus Christ be praised.  
This song of sacred joy,  
it never seems to cloy:  
may Jesus Christ be praised.**

**Does sadness fill my mind?  
A solace here I find,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.  
Or fades my earthly bliss?  
My comfort still is this:  
may Jesus Christ be praised.**

**Be this, while life is mine,  
my canticle divine:  
may Jesus Christ be praised.  
Be this th'eternal song,  
through ages all along:  
may Jesus Christ be praised.**

*Words: 19th century German, tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)  
Tune: Laudes Domini, Joseph Barnby (1838-1896). TIS 227*

# Welcome

Come people of God,  
turn your hearts and minds to the light of Christ  
even as we turn to the warmth of our summer sun.  
Let us be ready to welcome the events and the people  
who may become turning points in our lives.

**We welcome with eyes and hearts open,  
ready to see God present in our summer world;  
in the people we meet and in the things we do.**

*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.*

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<sup>1</sup> Joy Cowley

# Reconciliation

In this time of quiet

I invite you to reflect on life this holiday season.

Bring into the presence of God, in this place,

the joys and and burdens you carry with you this morning.

If you need forgiveness, seek it in the renewing love of God.

If you need healing, or courage, or wisdom,

seek it in the peace of God.

Jesus says,

“Ask, and it will be given to you;

search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9)

*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.

## Sentence and Prayer for the Day

The infant Jesus is presented in the Temple and recognized by Simeon, the prophet, as the one who embodies hope for an oppressed people.

**Let us hold this same radical hope and pray for prophetic energizing for humanity.**

## The First Reading

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 40:1-2, 49:5-13*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gradual Hymn

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.**

**Like a mother, you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father, you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort;  
in your presence I may rest.**

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be,  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.**

*Words: Shirley Murray  
Tune: Omni Die, melody from David Gregor Corner's  
'Gesangbuch', Nürnberg, 1631  
arr. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895). TIS 101*

## The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Luke,  
chapter two, beginning at verse twenty-two.

**Shine on our pathways.**

*Luke 2:22-40*

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

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Tune: Hyfrydol, melody by Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1887). TiS 217(i)*

## 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 aiane**

**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>**

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

# 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:*

God of abundant love and unexpected gifts.  
We delight in your presence amongst us.

**We are glad we can gather around your table as friends  
sharing the bread of life and wine of blessing.  
In this holiday season  
we will look for you in the smile of strangers,  
we will honour you in the life of those we love,  
we will be people of God and the Body of Christ  
wherever we are.  
Amen.**

## The Blessing

## Notices

## Recessional Hymn

**Forth in your name, O God, I go,  
my daily labour to pursue,  
you, God, alone resolved to know,  
in all I think, or speak, or do.**

**Each task your wisdom has assigned  
still let me cheerfully fulfil,  
in all my works your presence find,  
and prove your good and perfect will.**

**You may I set at my right hand,  
whose eyes my inmost substance view,  
and labour on at your command,  
and offer all my works to you.**

**Give me to bear your easy yoke,  
and every moment watch and pray,  
and still to things eternal look,  
and hasten to your glorious day;**

**for you delightfully employ  
all that your bounteous grace has given,  
and run my course with even joy,  
and closely walk with you to heaven.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Tune: Song 34, arr. from melody and bass of  
Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625). TIS 571*

*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

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