FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 18 December 2016

St Matthew-in-the-City

A spirited place where people stand, connect, and seek common ground

INTROIT

Rorate caeli desuper *Gregorian missal*

Text: Introit for Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 us 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 extinguish 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 of Milan (c. 340-397),
tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)
Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur, melody by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
as adapted from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582
harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934). TiS 194

WELCOME

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.

Liturgist:

Watch, wait, hope!
Even now, the tender leaves of peace
may be growing on the trees of life.
Watch, wait, hope!
For the wonder of new love
may be moving towards its birthing.

The Christ will come.
The Word of God will not fail us.

Keep awake! For the shadows of our doubt will be lifted
and singing sounds in the distance.

The Christ will come.
The Word of God will not fail us. [1]

Please be seated.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Liturgist:

In South India Malar and Bala attend the Student Parliament organised by SAND (Social Action for New Development) at their school. The Year 7 students know how important it is to take care of the environment. When the parliament met, they decided to plant a herbal garden in their school grounds.
A villager donated compost and SAND helped them collect seeds and young plants – including neem, pepper, tulsi, aloe vera, mint, basil. SAND works to eliminate child labour and encourages Dalit parents to send their children to school rather than to work.
With their help families have more income and better health. [2]

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[1] Dorothy McRae-McMahon *Liturgies for High Days,* adapted
[2] *CWS Partner Story from South India*

The first Advent candle represents our call to hope.
The second Advent candle represents our call to peace.
The third candle represents our call to joy.
Today we light the fourth Advent candle,
which represents our call to love.
This candle is a symbol of God's love, revealed in the baby Jesus.
It is a symbol of God's love, which is alive in each of us today.

O God of Love,
your love is present everywhere,
and your purpose is revealed in love.
We are called to be your people of love.
Help us to love one another.
Help us to show love to all the world.

THE MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat *Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)*

Text: Luke 1:46-55

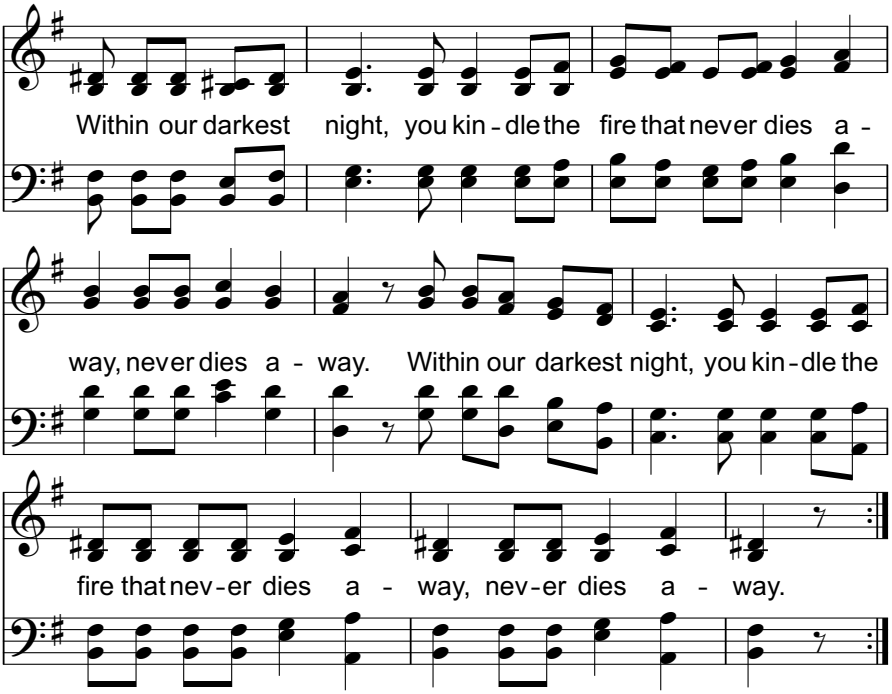
RECONCILIATION

Liturgist:

When peace is hard to find
open our eyes to look again, O God.
Open our minds to search again
for your presence and your purpose.

Loving Spirit, search our hearts
and meet us in this place.

Silence

We sing three times Taizé "Within our darkest night":

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.

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

SENTENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour"

Luke 1:46

God with us,
borne by Mary's flesh
beyond all convention:
give us the faith of Joseph
to see the Spirit's work
where the world sees only shame;
to listen to the promise
and waken to the cry
of life renewed and love reborn;
through Jesus Christ,
the one who is to come.
Amen. [3]

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:10-16

Let us wait,

and hope in God.

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[3] *Steven Shakespeare*

GRADUAL HYMN

Christ, your sun is rising,
and our hearts surprising,
source of all befriending,
spirit never-ending.

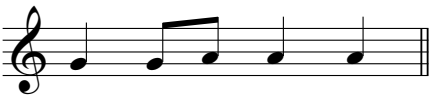
We may find you living,
present in all giving,
human face of loving,
faithful in your moving.

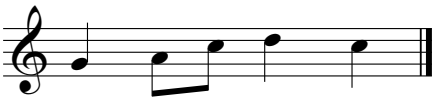
In all pain and pleasure
you discern our measure,
welcoming the stranger,
facing every danger.

Take away all sorrow,
bless a new tomorrow,
guide our liberation,
join in celebration.

Words: Jenny Blood
Tune: Ravenshaw, melody by William Henry Monk (1823-1889). TiS 427

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew,
chapter one, beginning at verse eighteen.

Matthew 1:18-25

This is the Gospel of Christ.

THE SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

Lift up your heads (from Messiah)

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Text: Psalm 24:7-10

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.

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.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY 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!

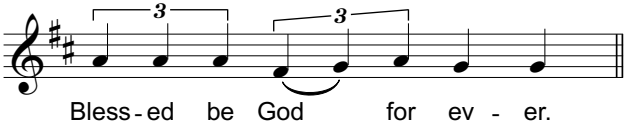
'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

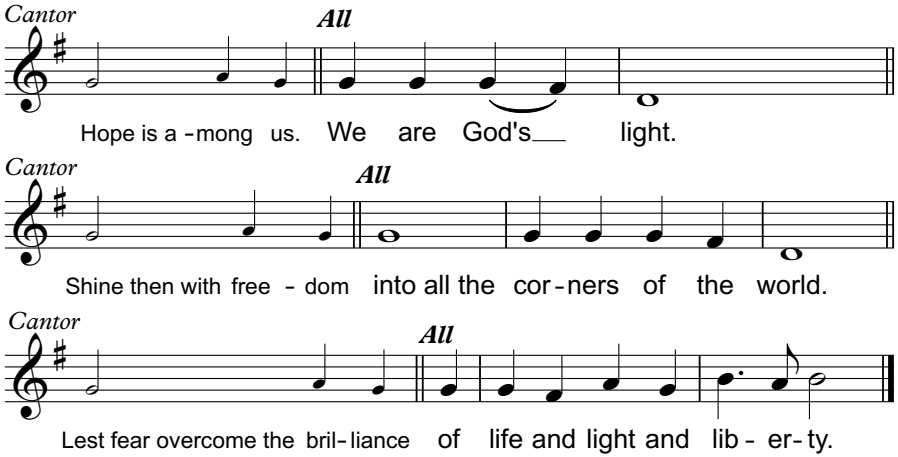
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify His holy name':
most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

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!

Words: Basque Carol, paraphrased
by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Tune: Gabriel's Message, Basque traditional carol melody
arr. Charles Edgar Pettman (1866-1943). TiS 302

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

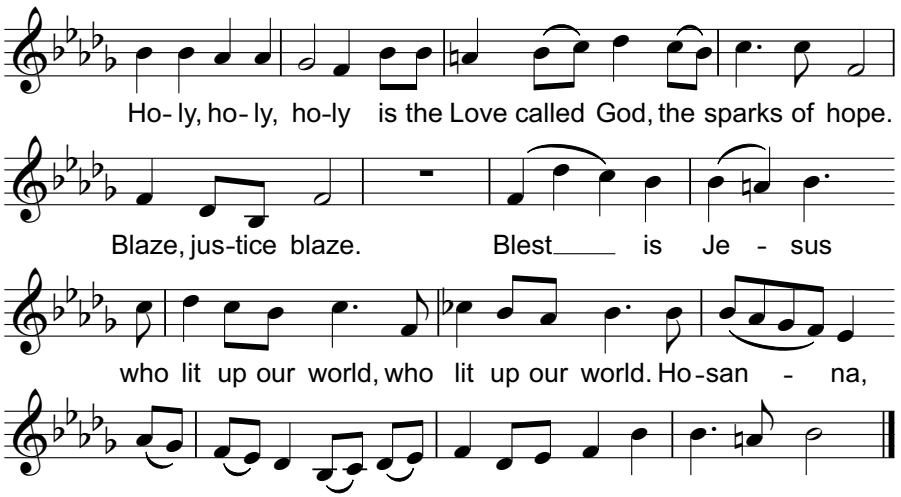
Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



O God, Mystery of summer skies,
we thank you in the lengthening days
for opening our eyes to see your sunlit beauty;
for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light;
for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.

Jesus was promised by those
who shared your dream of peace;
John the Baptist cleared the way
with words of desert fire;
Mary and Joseph accepted his coming
with tenderness and faith;
we know that he draws near again
to show us who we really are with honesty and love.

Now we take up the song of hope
that we might awaken to his coming among us
and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:



On the night that he was betrayed,
your Son Christ Jesus,
gathered with his faltering friends
for a meal that tasted of freedom.

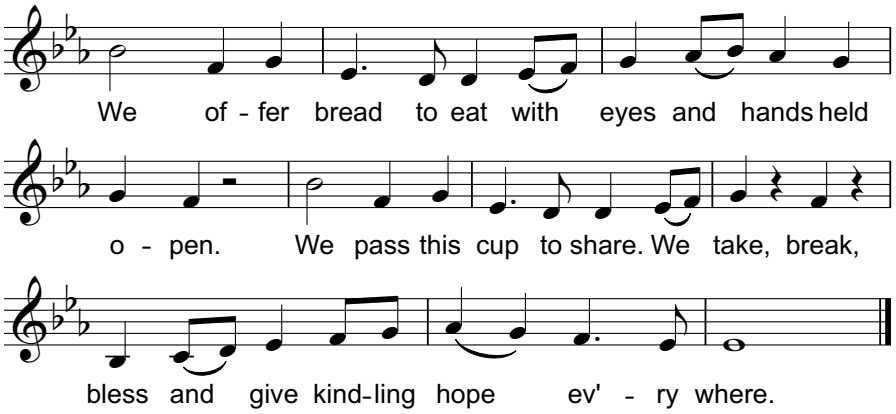
Calling them to his table,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

‘This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.’

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying:

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.’

As on that night, so here and now
he offers himself in touch and taste
beyond all words can hold.



Therefore, in our eating and drinking
we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ;
we proclaim him as creation's host,
transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts
that these fragile, earthly things may symbolize for us
the body and blood of our brother, Christ Jesus.

Inspire us with the Advent hope
that one day death and greed will be no more
and people without number
will come from east and west, north and south
to share the kingdom meal.
We ask this through Christ Jesus,
by whom and with whom and in whom
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory be yours, Mother of blessings,
for ever and ever. **Amen.** [4]

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 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.

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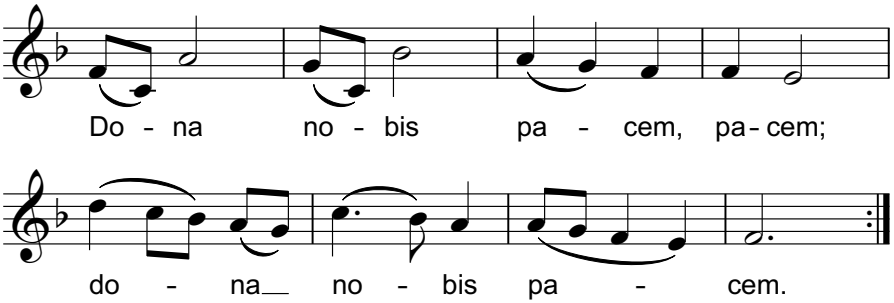
[4] Steven Shakespeare *Prayers for an Inclusive Church,* adapted

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 Taizé "Dona nobis pacem" (Grant us peace):



TE POWHIRI

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

Quia fecit mihi magna

Text: Luke 1:49

Suscepit Israel

Text: Luke 1:54

Sicut locutus est

Text: Luke 1:55

(from Magnificat BWV 243)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest:

Most loving God,
we are thankful for all we have shared
around this table of love.

**We are thankful that through faith,
hope will overcome doubt,
love will overcome fear,
and light will overcome darkness.
May the blessing of light be on us:
light without and light within.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness that I've heard
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice:
tender to me the promise of God's Word;
in God, my Chosen, shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name:
make known God's might, the deeds God's arm has done;
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;
God's holy name, Creator, Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might;
powers and dominions lay their glory by:
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's Word;
firm is God's promise, and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness that I've heard:
to children's children and for evermore.

Words: adapted by Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)
Tune: Woodlands, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949). TiS 161

Deacon from the rear of the church:

Go now to 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

Praeludium in D (BuxWV 139) Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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.

Music for Liturgical responses is by Michael CW Bell

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Prepared for printing by D. Rusakov