



## St Matthew-in-the-City

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

# THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, 8 January 2017

## Processional Hymn

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou would reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

*Words: J. S. B. Monsell (1811-1879)*

*Tune: Was lebet, melody from a MS 'Choral-Buch'  
of Johann Heinrich Reinhardt, Üttingen, 1754. TIS 160*

## 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.*

## 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.*

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<sup>1</sup> Joy Cowley

**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

“May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.  
May all kings bow down before him,  
all nations give him service.”

*Psalm 72:10-11*

**O God, the source of all insight,  
whose coming was revealed to the nations  
not among men of power  
but on a woman’s lap;  
give us grace to seek you  
where you may be found,  
that the wisdom of this world may be humbled  
and discover your unexpected joy. Amen. <sup>2</sup>**

## The First Reading

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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<sup>2</sup> Janet Morley

## The Gradual Hymn

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Give you heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Now you hear of endless bliss,  
Jesus Christ was born for this:  
He has oped the heavenly door,  
and all are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart, and soul, and voice!  
Now you need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save,  
calls you one and calls you all,  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**

*Words: John Mason Neale 1818-66*

*Tune: In Dulci Jubilo, 14th-cent. German carol melody. WOV 238*

# The Gospel

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

**Shine on our pathways.**

*Matthew 2:1-12*

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

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the king of Angels;**

***O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.***

**God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten not created:**

***O come, let us adore him . . .***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest:**

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

**Led by the starlight, Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
we to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations.**

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

*Words: possibly by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)  
Tune: Adeste Fideles,  
probably by John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786). TiS 304*

## 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>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</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

**Earth has many a noble city –  
Bethlehem alone excels:  
from it came the One from heaven,  
came to rule his Israel.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning  
was the star that told his birth,  
to the world its God announcing,  
seen in human form on earth.**

**Eastern sages at his cradle  
make oblations rich and rare;  
see them give in deep devotion  
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
frankincense God to disclose,  
gold the King of kings proclaiming,  
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.**

**Jesus, whom the gentiles worshipped  
at your glad epiphany,  
now to you with God the Father  
and the Spirit glory be.**

*Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.413)*

*Tune: Stuttgart, melody adapted from a chorale in 'Psalmodia Sacra', Gotha, 1715  
harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870). TIS 349*

*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

*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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*Prepared for printing by D. Rusakov*