



Saint Matthew in the City

3rd Sunday in Advent

11th December 2011

Processional Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
By thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Music: Stuttgart Melody adapted from a chorale in

'Psalmodia Sacra' Gotha, 1715

Source: TiS 272

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Liturgist

There are many people suffering in our world. They cry out for help. Yet we are bound by our own concerns and suffering. We are bound too by our lack of vision. We don't believe we can help.

To light even one candle is to say to the darkness of oppression: 'I beg to differ.' To light a candle is to claim the power to make a difference.

May the sparks of the God that is love
Ignite our passion for change

Offering the light of hope
To all who bravely differ.

The Words of Scripture

"Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you."

"God is love and those who abide in love abide in God."

"There is no fear in love."

Spirit of hope, search our hearts.

Let us pause in silence, listening for grace.

Please sit or kneel

Silence

We sing three times

With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the fire that nev-er dies a-way, nev-er dies a-way. With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the fire that nev-er dies a-way, nev-er dies a-way.

Together we pray

**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.

Sentence and Prayer for the Day

Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.

Washington Irvine

Together we pray

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn
from on high shall break upon us, to shine on
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, and to guide our feet into the way of
peace. Amen**

Please sit for the sung Magnificat

The Magnificat

Opening chorus from "Magnificat Antiquitatis"
Michael CW Bell

The First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11

Let us wait

All: And know that God is here

Gradual Hymn

My heart is leaping
my soul is glad,
for God has remembered me,
a humble servant:
I now am blessed,
for this Child will set people free.

The Holy Spirit
has come on me,
a prophecy to fulfil;
I am contented
to let it be,
according to God's holy will.

God's arm is mighty,
the proud brought down,
the lowly are lifted high;
the rich sent empty,
the hungry filled,
the covenant made will not die.

For God shows mercy
from age to age
and keeps faith with those before;
the promise given
to Abraham
is honoured and stands evermore.

Words: Marion Kitchingman (based on Luke 1:47-55)
Music: Mary's Song, Barry Brinson

Source: HioS 101

Gospel Reading:

The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter one
beginning at verse six.

Shine on our pathways.

John 1:6-8 19-28

This is the Gospel of Christ
May we hear wisdom.

The Sermon

Reflective Music

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Henry Purcell 1659-95

The Prayers of the People

Priest: Let us pray for those far and near, people and places, powerful and powerless, all for whom we are concerned.

The 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

We share a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

**To be your bread now, be your wine now,
Christ come and change us,
to be a sign of your love.
Blest and broken, poured and flowing,
gift that you gave us,
to be your body once again.**

[Solo] We come to your table with our lives as they are.
Heal us, Christ, for we are broken,
make us one again.

To be your bread now, be your wine now. . . .

[Solo] Christ, we stumble through the darkness of night.
Lead us now, O Christ we follow
bring us home to you.

To be your bread now, be your wine now. . . .

[Solo] Give us the bread and wine that bring us to life.
Feed us and we'll never hunger,
never thirst again.

To be your bread now, be your wine now. . . .

Words & Music: David Haas, Marty Haugen, Charles Knoll

The Great Thanksgiving

(In free time)

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.

From the beginning, life has been shaped by despair, struggle, and triumph. Oppressive forces have time and again tried to destroy the hope of the marginalized and vulnerable. The forces of wealth and privilege, armies and theology, have beaten

down upon the poor. Yet hope is never extinguished. When all seems lost the embers stir back into life, and the light of justice ignites again. For this we give deep and heartfelt thanks.

Shortly before Jesus died he gathered around him his closest friends... women and men who had shared in his despair, struggles, and triumphs. They met in a small upstairs room. The forces of power and self-interest were closing in. All their excitement, anticipation, and hopes were about to be put to death on a cross. In this moment Jesus took bread and wine, and likened it to his own life, broken and poured out for others.

In doing so he invited them and us to share in the brokenness of our world, and to share too in the healing of our world through self-giving love. In bread broken and wine poured out he initiated a new community. An upside-down community which believes that loving is more important than winning, doing what is right is more important than doing what is safe, and setting people free is more important than trying to control their lives. It is a community marked by justice and hope.

Therefore, with all who have struggled, dreamed, despaired, and triumphed we sing:

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff is the vocal line, starting with a dynamic marking of *All*. The lyrics are: "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Love called God, the sparks of hope." The second staff is the organ accompaniment, marked *(organ)*, with lyrics: "Blaze, jus-tice blaze. Blest is Je - sus who". The third staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: "lit up our world, who lit up our world. Ho-san - na, ho -". The fourth staff continues the organ accompaniment with lyrics: "-san - na, ho - san - na to the low-est and the least."

And so we remember on the night before he died Jesus took bread; when he had given thanks he broke it, gave it to his friends 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 thanks he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood which is shed for you and for many; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

With this bread and wine we remember the dream of God, and the call of God.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff is the vocal line, starting with a dynamic marking of *All*. The lyrics are: "We of - fer bread to eat with eyes and hands held". The second staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: "o - pen. We pass this cup to share. We take, break,". The third staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: "bless and give kind-ling hope ev' - ry where."

Recalling the promise of tomorrow we wait out the long night of struggle,
Remembering our brother Jesus, our sister Mary, and all our spiritual forbears,
Rejoicing in the bonds of solidarity and the unquenchable Divine Energy
We take, eat and drink, knowing that the Spirit of God is here within and among us,
in simple food, in simple grace,
calling us to freedom's banquet.

O Candle of calm and peace, lending your beauty to our darkened corners:

Come and share your halo of light with us, to comfort and to guide.

O Star of the darkened sky, you lead us if we choose to follow,

By night and by day, seeing and not seeing, we journey towards the truth.

O Sudden Flare, you explode like a burst of match flame in the darkness:

Come and illumine our plans, protests, and petitions for justice.

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.

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*

All



Stay with me, re - main here with me,



watch ___ and pray, ___ watch and pray.

The Invitation

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this grace.

There is a chalice for dipping - simply hold the bread in front of you
to signify your choice.

Te Taro, o te Ora. The Bread of Life

Te Kapu o te Ora. The Cup of Salvation.

Music during Communion

The peace of God John Rutter b.1945

Ad te Domine levavi animam meam

Alessandro Scarlatti 1660-1725

Prayer after Communion

I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the colour
and fragrance of a flower – the Light in my darkness,
the Voice in my silence.

Helen Keller

I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look
up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will
change for the better, that this cruelty too will end,
that peace and tranquillity will return once more.

Anne Frank

May the blessing of light be on us, light without and
light within.

Celtic

**You are present, Spirit of God,
within us, your dwelling place and home.
This place is one where
All darkness is penetrated by your light,
All troubles calmed by your peace,
All evil redeemed by your love,
and all pain held within your hope. Amen.**

Notices

Blessing

May Divine Wisdom hold us in the palm of Her hand
and breathe into us gently Her life-giving Spirit.

May the light of the new dawn break over us
bringing insight, fresh courage and hope.

And may the fierce passion of the Love that is God
send us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Final Hymn

**Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.**

**O that birth for ever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving
bore the saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

**This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected:
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.**

**In the heights of heaven adore him,
angel hosts his praises sing,
all dominions bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert sing
Evermore and evermore.**

*Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348-c.413,
translated John Mason Neale 1827-77*

*Music: Divinum Mysterium from
'Piae Cantiones, Theoderici Petri Nylandensis, 1582*

Source: TiS 290

Liturgist from the rear of the Church:

Let us 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

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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