

Saint Matthew-in-the-City

Sunday 21st March 2010

5th Sunday in Lent, Passion Sunday

Processional Hymn

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his glorious name!*

**Come Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
If we are silent, even stones cry out ...**

**Jesus, you wept to see our human strife,
teach us compassion for each human life ...**

**Peace was your plea and peace your loving theme
let peace be our passport, peace a living dream ...**

**Great is the cost of walking on this road,
to follow and suffer with the Son of God ...**

**Worlds to be born and children yet to be
come, take up this song into eternity ...**

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his glorious name!*

*Words: Michael Robert Newbolt 1874-1956
adapt. Shirley Murray*

Music: Crucifer Sydney Hugo Nicholson 1875-1947

Welcome

Liturgist

There are many people suffering in our world. They cry out for help. Yet we are bound by our own worries, frenetic lifestyles, and lack of vision. We are bound too by our own suffering. 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.

Song of Zaccheus

Joy Cowley

**Always, our darkness contains a seed of light
that struggles to grow into brightness.
Evil so hungers for good that often
it will consume itself in its longing.
For light is the truth of all existence.**



**Holy One, I have always known
the bright sparks of your presence in me.
You shine like a star in my nights,
creating in me a great longing
to once more, be one with you!**
[Refrain]

**But I am small, O God, one of your own,
and I do not see over the crowds.
I'll do anything to attract your attention,
work, pray, climb the tree of yearning
and recklessly crawl out on its branches.**
[Refrain]

**When at last you are sitting at my table,
and my entire house is aglow with you,
I ponder on the mystery of my darkness.
Would I have recognized my need for you
if my life had been as bright as the day?**



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



Priest

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.

May we know the grace of forgiveness and offer that grace to others. Let the fires of hope be rekindled among us, giving light and warmth to the world. Amen.

The Sentence and Prayer for the Day

What does God's love smell like? Like honeysuckle on a warm spring day? Like a salty ocean breeze? Can God's love also smell like a person who hasn't bathed for days? Like Lazarus after four days in a tomb? *Beth Sanders*

Together we pray

May the perfume of God's love open our senses to understanding one another. May we see their dreams through our eyes. May we hear their hopes with our ears, May we smell their fears through our nose. May we taste their tears with our tongue. May we touch their wounds with our fingers. and know that we are one. Amen.

The First Reading

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Isa 43:16-21

Here ends the reading.

Gradual Hymn

**Will you offer me compassion?
Will you walk the road with me?
Brother, sister, will you feed me
ripe fruit from the Mercy Tree.**

**Will you utter words of comfort?
Will you bless me with your peace?
Mercy is the gift I long for:
mercy from the Mercy Tree.**

**I do not deserve your loving,
brother, sister, yet I plead –
I am human, I have need of
mercy from the Mercy Tree.**

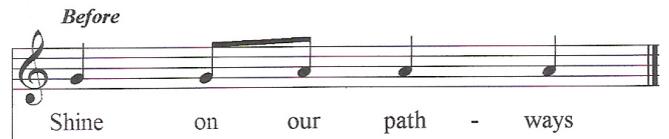
**If you offer me your friendship
if you make your peace with me,
mercy will most surely touch you:
mercy from the Mercy Tree.**

Words: John Weir

Music: Misericordia, Douglas Mews

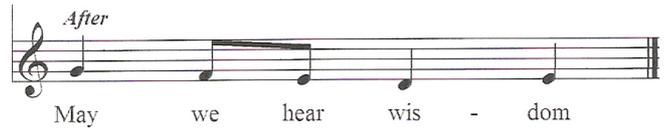
The Gospel Reading:

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



John 12:1-8

This is the Gospel of Christ



The Sermon

Reflective Music

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659

Bach

Intercessions

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

1 Sam 16:1-13

We share a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

**Maker of mystery,
dreamer of what will be,
well-spring and fertile ground of all our growing:
tending the buried seed,
foreseeing every need,
you draw us into life beyond our knowing.**

**Christ, strong and living vine,
spreading through space and time,
deep rooted in the love of God our mother:
dying, you live and share
your strength with us, to bear
ripe fruit in season for the life of others.**

**Wild Spirit, springing green,
coiled in the depths unseen,
promise of fruit with the seed maturing:
new life, you grow and swell,
burst from the outgrown shell,
hundredfold yield in every age ensuring.**

**Living and loving God,
sing in the pulse of our blood,
help us to know you in your own creation,
love you, the life of all,
serve you and hear your call**



ake. Amine.

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

**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 1707-88

Music: Song 34 Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

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 hope of Jesus.

Organ Voluntary

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

<i>Drop, drop slow tears)</i>	<i>Gibbons</i>
<i>Almighty and everlasting God</i>	<i>Gibbons</i>

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*

We remain seated for the Lord's Prayer in Maori

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,**