

# Saint Matthew-in-the-City

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

#### Processional Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small:  
love so amazing, so divine  
demands my soul, my life my all.

*Words: Isaac Watts 1674-1748*

*Music: Rockingham*

*Melody adapted by Edward Miller 1735-1807*

#### 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*

Let them return to their God who may have mercy on them; to our God who will abundantly pardon.

*Isa 55:7b*

*Together we pray*

**You, O God, promise mercy and pardon to those who repent, who turn their lives around. Touch our hearts during this Lenten season to be attentive to the call to repent that rises up from the very earth in our day. Amen**

### *The First Reading*

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

*Isa 55:1-9*

Here ends the reading.

### *Gradual Hymn*

**Beautiful presence, how can we name you?  
Words are too small for the one who is all..  
How can we speak of your gentleness in us,  
the warmth of our hearts in response to your call**

*Beautiful presence, ocean of love  
strong as forever, soft as a dove.*

*Words often fail us, but this we know true,  
you live within us as we live in you.*

**There have been times of spiritual blindness,  
when error and pain have distorted our sight.  
Beautiful presence, you were there with us  
to show us how darkness can turn into light.**

### *Refrain*

**Nothing that happens to us will be wasted,  
all of our living is grounded in grace.  
Gently you take down the walls of division  
leading us on to a larger place.**

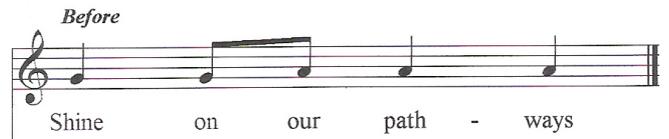
### *Refrain*

*Words: Joy Cowley*

*Music: Beautiful Presence, Barry Brinson*

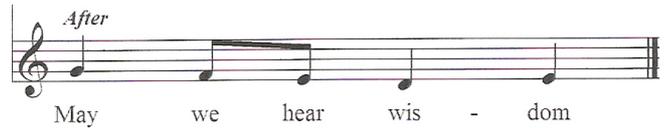
### *The Gospel Reading:*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter thirteen beginning at verse one



*Luke 13:1-9*

This is the Gospel of Christ



### *The Sermon*

#### *Reflective Music*

*Lift thine eyes*

*Mendelssohn*

#### *Intercessions*

#### *The Peace*

We commit ourselves to live in peace  
as we work for it

**To kindle peace within, between and beyond us** *1 Sam 16:1-13*

For the peace of Jesus is an active peace

**Building, bridging and always dreaming**

*We share a sign of peace*

#### *Offertory Hymn*

**Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom:  
lead thou me on.**

**The night is dark, and I am far from home;  
lead thou me on.**

**Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see~  
the distant scene –one step enough for me.**

**I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou  
shouldst lead me on.**

**I loved to choose and see my path; but now  
lead thou me on.**

**I loved the garish day, and spite of fears  
pride ruled my will: remember not past years.**

**So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still  
will lead me on  
o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till~  
the night is gone:**

**and with the morn those angel faces smile,  
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.**

*Words: John Henry Newman 1801-90*

*Music: Lux Benigna John Bacchus Dykes 1823-76*



## *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*

*Adoramus Te, Christus  
O Rest in the Lord*

*Palestrina  
Mendelssohn*

## *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 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.**

## *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*

**Refrain:**

**Let justice roll down like a river,  
let justice roll down like the sea,  
let justice roll down like a river,  
let justice begin through me.**

**Justice for all who go hungry,  
crying to God to be fed,  
left in a world of abundance  
to beg for a morsel of bread.**

**Refrain:**

**Justice for those who go homeless,  
victims of warfare or need.  
trapped on the borders of nowhere,  
lost in the canyons of greed.**

**Refrain:**

**Justice for all who are powerless,  
yearning for freedom in vain,  
plundered, and robbed of their birthright,  
silently bearing their pain.**

**Refrain:**

*Words and Music: Colin Gibson*

*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*

*Voluntary*

*Composer*