



Saint Matthew-in-the-City

Celebrates Pentecost 17

Sunday 15th September 2013

Processional Hymn

**Community of Christ,
who made the cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:**

**the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.**

**Community of Christ,
look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.**

**Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.**

**Community of Christ,
through whom the world must sound—
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.**

**When menace melts away
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun:
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
forevermore.**

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1931-
Music: Leoni, Hebrew Synagogue Melody
Transcribed by Meyer Lyon 1751-97
arr. Thomas Olivers 1725-99*

Source: TiS 473

Welcome

God-in-Christ is closer than the air we breathe, filling and inspiring us, guiding us on. As we gather in worship the building and music lift us. We acknowledge with awe the presence of the God of love and God's call to us.

May we have the wisdom and humility to realise the gifts we have been given, and use those gifts to bring healing and justice.

People of the land,
giving and receiving sustenance and hope.

People of the sea,
nurtured by blue expanse and rolling waves.

People of the night,
soothed and held by silence.

People of the dawn,
ready to venture and experiment.

People of community,
offering comfort and nurture.

People of the journey,
leaving the old certainties behind.

Like rivers, we are connected to our source and our destination as we travel through life. Knowing the entire journey is held in God runs deep within us.

Song of Praise



Give glo - ry to God, be - yond and with - in.

**For the great source we claim as God,
loving and life-giving, creating and remaking,
light in our darkness...**



Give glo - ry to God, be - yond and with - in.

**For the great exemplar we know as Christ,
acquainted with suffering, holding the discarded,
guide on our journey...**



Give glo - ry to God, be - yond and with - in.

**For the great mystery we name as Spirit,
Indwelling wisdom, music to our souls,
deep river of generosity...**



Give glo - ry to God, be - yond and with - in.

Music: C. Sheehy

Please be seated

Words of Encouragement:

A new commandment I give to you that you love one another as I have loved you. *Jesus*

I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbour. Do you know your next door neighbour?
Mother Teresa

Hold fast therefore to the liberty wherein Christ has made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
Paul of Tarsus

We pause in silence and self-reflection

A Prayer for Spring

God give us rain when we expect sun.
Give us music when we expect trouble.
Give us tears when we expect breakfast.
Give us dreams when we expect a storm.
Give us a stray dog when we expect congratulations.
God play with us, turn us sideways and around.
Amen. *Michael Leunig*

Sentence and Prayer for the Day

'God is constantly colouring outside the lines'.
Anonymous

Together we pray.

Be known in us, Sacred Spirit, that this house may be one where children, animals, humour, surprises, and beauty - with all the joys and disruptions they may bring - are valued and encouraged. For they nourish our soul, and shape our prayer. Amen.

The First Reading

A reading from the Book of Numbers.
Numbers 22:21-34

Here ends the reading.

Gradual Hymn

**Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.**

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1931-
Music: Tenderness, Colin Gibson
Source: AA 143*

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Mark, chapter ten beginning at verse thirteen.



Mark 10:13-16

This is the Gospel of Christ.



The Sermon

The Reflection

*How beautiful are their feet Stanford
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

The Prayers of the People

Presider Let us be still and mindful of the world, the Church, this nation, our communities, and ourselves.

The Peace

Peace be with us all.
With justice comes peace.

Let us build peace together,
and change our world.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace

Offertory Hymn

**Great ring of light, true circle with no ending;
clear beams so bright, whose purpose knows no
bending;
O Word of God, in darkness always shining out.**

**A man who cried upon a cross at Calvary;
for him who died an empty tomb, a mystery;
O risen Christ, all pain and loss transcending.**

**Immortal fire of love forever yearning;
flame of desire for our salvation burning;
Spirit divine, our friend and present comforter.**

**The light shines still, the eternal Word has spoken;
on Calvary's hill the power of death is broken;
and I receive the life, the joy, the loving.**

*Words: Colin Gibson
Music: Halley, Colin Gibson
Source: AA 57*

The Great Thanksgiving

Our Earth is a taonga, a treasure. Here we find food, water, shelter, companionship, beauty, and solace. Entrusted to us by our forbears, it calls to us, and when we listen, there is harmony. As the ocean's fingers caress our shores, the pregnant forests tend our land, and the night's cool whispers soothe our dreams, our life and spirits are woven into the fabric of this land.

Cantor
O bril-liant sun, gift-ing the earth with light and warmth.

All
We are thank-ful, let us show our grat-i-tude.

Cantor
O fresh-'ing rain, fall-ing to ir-ri-gate and cleanse.

All
We are thank-ful, let us show our grat-i-tude.

Cantor
O crash-ing waves, surf-ers and walk-ers de-light.

All
We are thank-ful, let us show our grat-i-tude.

Cantor
O boun-ti-ful earth, you suck-le and tend us.

All
We are thank-ful, let us show our grat-i-tude.

From the beginning, powerful forces of greed and indifference have vied for allegiance in the human heart. Individuals, tribes, and nations have been shaped by these forces. Generosity, that amazing power of gift and trust, has rarely been in the ascendancy. Time and again, ruling elites have found ways to undermine and ignore it.

Our planet has absorbed the desecration, carrying the scars. Rampant human greed has ravaged our whenua. We await a time when the taonga Earth will be valued.

Jesus of Nazareth uncompromisingly lived and preached generosity. He railed against the barriers of self-interest and the fear used to maintain them. He broke the law. Then the law broke him. It seemed the powers of avarice and apathy had vanquished the powers of gift and trust.

The life of Jesus did not end on a Roman gallows. His spirit lived on in his followers, and continues to do so in the depth of all people. Let justice be our compass, compassion our means, and love our destination.

Ho-ly, won-der-ful and
vi-vant is the God in Je-sus.

Praise be that love tri-umphs o-ver fear.
Praise be that kind-ness tri-umphs o-ver greed.
Praise be that hope tri-umphs o-ver loss.
Al-le-lu-ia!

And so we remember the rebel Jesus who, on the night before he died, took the gift of 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 brings new life; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

With this bread and wine, we remember the gift of life and the call to our soul.

Cantor
O bread of life en-trust-ed to us, may we be nour-ish-ed.

All
May we share bread so the world may be fed.

Cantor
O cup of life en-trust-ed to us, may we be sat-is-fied.

All
May we share drink so that none may thirst.

Cantor
O Jesus' memory entrusted to us, may we be mo-ti-vated.

All
To sim-ply share so the world may sim-ply live.

May we give, work and struggle for a renewed world, where generosity, love and justice abound, and planet earth is honoured and replenished.

Priest Come renewed world.
All **You call to our souls.**

Priest Come spirit of Jesus.
All **You call to our conscience.**

Priest Come let us bless, break, and share.
All **To embody the power of God.**

