

Welcome! Haere Mai!
St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday, 1 December 2024
Advent 1: Hope

Processional Hymn:

Lo He comes with clouds descending
once for mortal sinners slain
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of His train
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
robed in dreadful majesty
we who set at naught and sold Him
pierced and nailed Him to the tree
Deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving
shall the true Messiah see

Those dear tokens of His passion
still His dazzling body bears
cause of endless exultation
to His ransomed worshippers
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze upon those glorious scars

Yea, amen, let all adore Thee
high on Thine eternal throne
Saviour take the pow'r and glory
claim the Kingdom for Thine own
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and Thou alone.

Welcome and Greeting:

In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Advent Wreath:

Each week during Advent we light a candle on the wreath. There are five candles – four for the Sundays in Advent, and one for Christmas Eve. Every time we light a candle, we associate the light with the attitude for which we have just prayed.

The first four candles represent: hope, peace, joy and love.

Advent 1: the Candle of Hope

Hope is assertive, even aggressive at times. Hope fuelled the prophet to call upon God to tear open the heavens and shake the mountains so that we would all tremble, remembering that there is a God, because the world has forgotten. But we have not.

We cling to this hope that interrupts and shakes our lives out of monotony, out of complacency, and out of despair. We light this candle, a spark of flame that ignites a rebellion of hope against empire, against hate, against fear.

This is the fire that kindles inside of us and will not die.

Prayer

God of Hope, our world has grown cold with despair, with hopelessness, with weariness and dread. Alight in us the fire of Your Spirit, a reminder that death never has the final word, so we might pursue justice and live into Your ways and become living hope in a world that desperately needs it. Amen.

Collect for Purity:

Let us pray together:

**Almighty God, to Whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,
so that we may truly love You, and
worthily praise Your holy Name;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Gloria:

**Glory to God in the highest and
peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father
receive our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Summary of the Law:

Hear the teaching of Christ: a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Confession:

Hear God's Word to all who turn to Christ:

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3: 16

Jesus said: "Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden
and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28, ESV

Silence

God has promised forgiveness to all who:

truly repent
turn to Christ in faith, and
are themselves forgiving.

In silence, let us call to mind our sins:

Silence

Let us confess our sins:

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have
thought and said, in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness;
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to You.
Forgive us, for our Saviour's sake, and renew our lives
to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

Absolution:

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you,
pardon you and set you free.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal.

Amen.

Sharing the Word:

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Sentence:

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.

Luke 21:28

Collect:

Come, O come Emmanuel, You are the way, the Truth and the Life; Come, living Saviour come to Your world which waits for You. Hear this prayer for Your love's sake. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25: 1-10

To You Lord I lift up my soul, my God I have put my trust in You

**Let me not be disappointed,
nor let my enemies triumph over me**

For all those who hope in You shall not be ashamed

But only those who wantonly break faith

Make known to me Your ways O Lord

And teach me Your paths

Lead me in the way of Your Truth and teach me

You are God my Saviour, for You have I waited all the day long

Call to remembrance O Lord Your tender care

And the unfailing love which You have shown from of old

Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth

But according to Your mercy

remember me Lord in Your goodness

You O Lord are upright and good

Therefore, You show the path to those who go astray

You guide the humble to do what is right

And those who are gentle You teach Your way

All Your ways are loving and sure

To those who keep Your Covenant and Your Commandments

For Your Name's sake O Lord

Pardon my guilt, which indeed is great

Glory to God, Source of all being,

Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,

is now and will be forever. Amen.

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians:

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Father, we adore You
Lay our lives before You
How we love You.

Jesus, we adore You
Lay our lives before You
How we love You.

Spirit, we adore You
Lay our lives before You
How we love You.

Gospel:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

Praise and glory to God.

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying

that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Luke 21: 25-36

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one being with the Father;
through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became fully human.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again, in accordance
with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified and has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People:

Today we pray for the people, staff and clergy of Fiji, and for the Bishop of Waiapu: Andrew Hedge & Raewyn, & their children Jessica, Ethan & Caitlin.

We pray also for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Craig, Viv, James F, Hazel, Lynda, Lawrence, Adam, Sheryl T.

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

E te whānau / Brothers and sisters,
we are the body of Christ.

By one Spirit we were baptised into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.

Offertory Hymn:

I cannot tell why He whom angels worship
should set His love upon the sons of men
or why as shepherd He should seek the wanderers
to bring them back, they know not how or when
But this I know, that He was born of Mary
when Bethl'hem's manger was His only home
and that He lived at Nazareth and laboured
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world has come

I cannot tell how silently He suffered
as with His peace He graced this place of tears
nor how His heart upon the cross was broken
the crown of pain to three and thirty years
But this I know He heals the broken-hearted
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here

I cannot tell how He will win the nations
how He will claim His earthly heritage
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory
and He shall reap the harvest He has sown
and some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour
When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world is known

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship
when at His bidding every storm is stilled
or who can say how great the jubilation
when all our hearts with love for Him are filled
But this I know the skies will sing His praises
ten thousand thousand human voices sing
and earth to heaven and heaven to earth will answer
At last, the Saviour, Saviour of the world is King.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table:

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation:
through Your goodness we have these gifts to share,
Accept and use our offerings for Your glory
and for the service of Your kingdom.

Blessed be God forever.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places
to give You thanks and praise through Christ Your only Son.

You are the Source of all life and goodness;
through Your eternal Word, You have created all things from the
beginning and formed us in Your own image;
male and female You created us.

When we sinned and turned away, You brought us back to Yourself
and gave Your Son to share our human nature.

*In His coming among us the day of our deliverance has dawned
and through Him You will make all things new when He comes
in power and majesty to judge the world.*

In Him You have made us a holy people
by sending upon us Your Holy and life-giving Spirit.

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in Him, with angels and
archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim Your great
and glorious name, forever praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and thanksgiving to You Holy Father; on the night before He
died, Your Son Jesus Christ took bread; when He had given 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; when He had given You thanks,
He gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you. This is My blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember Me.

**Glory to You Lord Christ. Your death we show forth;
Your resurrection we proclaim; Your coming we await.
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling Your great goodness to us in Christ, His suffering and death; His resurrection and ascension; and looking for His coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send Your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive, may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of Your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before You in earth and heaven, we worship You, O God in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be Yours,
here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.**

As our Lord has taught us, let's pray together:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of Bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

Let's pray together:

**Most merciful Lord, Your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit to eat the crumbs from under Your table.
But You, Lord, are the God of our salvation
and share Your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood
of Your Son, that He may live in us and we in Him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in Your kingdom. Amen.**

The Invitation:

Draw near and receive the body and blood
of our Saviour, Jesus Christ in remembrance that He died for us.
Let us feed on Him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayers after Communion:

Father of all, we give You thanks and praise, that when we
were still far off, You met us in Your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, He declared Your love, gave us grace
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live His risen life;
we who drink His cup, bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**Keep us firm in the hope You have set before us,
so we and all Your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise Your name. Amen.**

Blessing:

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of His Son Jesus Christ ... and may the blessing of almighty God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you, and all those you love, and
with those you struggle to love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

All my hope on God is founded
all my trust He shall renew
He my guide through changing order
only good and only true
God unknown, He alone
calls my heart to be His own

Human pride and earthly glory
sword and crown betray His trust
what with care and toil we fashion
tower and temple fall to dust
but God's power, hour by hour
is my temple and my tower

Day by day our mighty Giver
grants to us. His gifts of love
in His will our souls find pleasure
leading to our home above
Love shall stand, at His hand
Joy shall wait for His command

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ His Son
Hear Christ's call, one and all
we who follow shall not fall.

Dismissal:

Haere i runga i te rangimarie, i runga i te aroha,
me te ngakau hihiko, ki te mahi, ki te Ariki.

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

This service comes from *“A New Zealand Prayer Book: He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa”* p. 404 *Thanksgiving of the People of God* and is used in accordance with GStHW Canons and regulations.
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