

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



Sunday, 30 March 2025

Lent 4

Processional Hymn:

There is a Redeemer,
 Jesus God's own Son
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
 Holy One

*Thank You O my Father, for giving us Your Son
 And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done*

Jesus my Redeemer
 Name above all names
 Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
 O for sinners slain

*Thank You O my Father, for giving us Your Son
 And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done*

When I stand in glory
 I will see His face
 There I'll serve my King forever
 In that holy place

*Thank You O my Father, for giving us Your Son
 And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Welcome and Greeting:

In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life. **Amen.**

Call to Worship:

Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

**Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,
release for the captives, recovery of sight for the blind
and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

Benedicite Aotearoa:

O give thanks to our God who is good: whose love endures for ever.

**You sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

**All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,
glacier, avalanche, mist and snow: give to our God
your thanks and praise.**

You kauri and pine, rata and kōwhai, mosses and ferns:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

**Dolphins and kahawai, sealion and crab,
coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp:
give to our God your thanks and praise.**

Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs, kiwi and sparrow
and tui and hawk: give to our God your thanks and praise.

**You Māori and Pākehā, women and men, all who inhabit
the long white cloud: give to our God your thanks and praise**

All you saints and martyrs of the South Pacific:
give to our God your thanks and praise.

Silence

Confession:

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. Let us confess our sins to the Lord, let us not conceal our wrongdoings.

Silence

God forgives and heals us.

**We need Your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us; some escape us;
some we cannot face.
Forgive us; set us free to hear Your word to us;
set us free to serve You.**

Absolution:

God forgives you. Forgive others; Forgive yourself.

Silence

Through Christ, God has put away your sin: approach God in peace.

Sentence:

God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18

Collect:

**We praise You Father God, that the light of Christ shines
in our darkness and is never overcome; show us the way
we must go to eternal day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A reading from the prophet Joshua: Joshua 5: 9-12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32:

Blessèd are those whose offences are forgiven
whose sin has been put away

Blessèd are those to whom the Lord imputes no guilt
and in whose spirit there is no deceit

While I held back from confessing my sin
my body wasted away through my groaning all day long

For Your hand was heavy upon me day and night
I was dried up and withered, as it were by drought in summer

Then I acknowledged my sin to You
my guilt I did not hide

I said: 'I will confess my sins to the Lord'
and so You forgave the wickedness of my sin

Therefore let all those that are faithful pray to You in time of trouble
when great flood-water rises, it shall not come near them

You are a place to hide me in, You will preserve me from trouble
You will surround me with shouts of deliverance

'I will teach you, and guide you in the way you should go
I will keep you under my eye and give you counsel.'

Be not like horse or mule, which have no understanding
whose course must be checked with bit and bridle

Many pains are in store for the wicked
but whoever trusts in the Lord is surrounded by steadfast love

Be glad you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord
shout for joy all you that are upright in heart.

**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 Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: 1 Cor 10: 1-13

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee
O Lamb of God I come

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings and fears, within, without
O Lamb of God I come

Just as I am, poor wretched blind
Sight, riches, healing of the mind
Yea all I need in Thee to find
O Lamb of God I come

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve
Because Thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God I come

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down
Now to be Thine, yea Thine alone
O Lamb of God I come

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove
Here for a season, then above
O Lamb of God I come.

Gospel:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Praise and glory to God.

Luke 15: 1-3; 11b-32

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon**The Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
 is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People:

*Let us pray for the Church and the world giving thanks for God's
 goodness.*

Today we give thanks for and celebrate the Five Marks of Mission,
 and we pray for the people of Christian World Service.

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

The Peace:

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Colossians 3.14 (adapted)

May the peace of God be with you all.

In God's justice is our peace.

E te whānau / Brothers and sisters, Christ calls us to live in unity.

We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn:

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song
this cornerstone, this solid ground
firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my all in all
here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
fulness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones He came to save
till on that cross as Jesus died
the wrath of God was satisfied
for ev'ry sin on Him was laid
here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His Body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 then bursting forth in glorious day
 up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 for I am His and He is mine
 bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
 this is the pow'r of Christ in me
 from life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
 can ever pluck me from His hand
 till He returns or calls me home
 here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table:

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation:
 through Your goodness we have this bread and wine to share,
 which earth has given, and human hands have made.
 They will become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Spirit of God be with you
And also with you.

Lift your hearts to heaven.

Where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, to give You thanks most loving God,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, the first born from the dead,
the pioneer of our salvation, Who is with us always, one of us,
yet from the heart of God.

For with Your whole created universe, we praise You for
Your unfailing gift of life. We thank You that You make us human
and stay with us, even when we turn from You to sin.

**God's love is shown to us; while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.**

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save, You came
among us in Jesus Christ our crucified and living Lord.

You make all things new, in Christ's suffering and cross
You reveal Your glory and reconcile all peoples to Yourself,
their true and living God.

*By Christ's journey into darkness are we all brought home;
by His agony and bloody sweat are we come finally to life;
the tree of shame is now the tree of glory.*

In Your mercy You are now our God. Through Christ You gather us,
new-born in Your Spirit, a people after Your own heart.

We entrust ourselves to You,
for You alone do justice to all people, living and departed.

**Now is the acceptable time,
now is the day of salvation.**

Therefore, with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets,
with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise You and say:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky and all that lives,
declare Your presence and Your glory.**

All glory to You, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises living God, for Jesus Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, Who, in the night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given You thanks, 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, and 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 to forgive sin.
Do this as often as you drink it to remember Me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our Redeemer, we meet You in Your glory. We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon Your name. Here and now, with this bread and wine, we celebrate Your great acts of liberation, ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, Who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way, our access to You Father, and source of all new life. In Christ we offer ourselves to do Your will.

Empower our celebrations with Your Holy Spirit, feed us with Your life, fire us with your love, confront us with Your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ with all who share Your gifts of love.

**Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before You in earth and heaven,
we worship You, Creator God. 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:

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ

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

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The Invitation:

Bread and wine; the gifts of God
for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts be found in Christ
and Christ in us.**

Prayers after Communion:

Most loving God, Creator and Redeemer,
we give You thanks for this foretaste of Your glory.

**Through Christ and with all Your saints, we offer ourselves
and our lives to Your service. Send us out in the power
of Your Spirit, to stand with You in Your world. We ask this
through Jesus Christ the Servant, our Friend and Brother.
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 God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life be with you, with all those you love, and with those you struggle to love, this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ Who died for me
how He left the realms of glory
for the cross of Calvary

*Yes I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ Who died for me
sing it with His saints in glory
gathered by the crystal sea*

I was lost but Jesus found me
found the sheep that went astray
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way

*Yes I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ Who died for me
sing it with His saints in glory
gathered by the crystal sea*

I was faint and fears possessed me
I was bruised from many a fall
hope was gone and shame distressed me
but His love has pardoned all

*Yes I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ Who died for me
sing it with His saints in glory
gathered by the crystal sea*

Days of darkness still may meet me
sorrow's path I often tread
but His presence still is with me
by His guiding hand I'm led

*Yes I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ Who died for me
sing it with His saints in glory
gathered by the crystal sea*

He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet
then at last He'll bring me over
saved by grace and made complete

*Yes I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ Who died for me
sing it with His saints in glory
gathered by the crystal sea*

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.