



**The Anglican Parish  
of Greater Hastings**



**Christmas Day Eucharist  
at  
St Matthew's Church  
25<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
10.00 am**

Presider: The Venerable David van Oeveren, Vicar  
Priest Associate: The Reverend Margaret Thompson  
Liturgist: Kamogelo Mogakabe  
Reader: Esma Smith  
Organist: Robin Nairn

## Opening Hymn: **O Come all ye faithful**

SG357 - Words: J Wade, F Oakley & others - Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

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|---|--|
| <p>1 O come, all ye faithful,<br/>joyful and triumphant;<br/>O come ye, O come ye<br/>to Bethlehem;<br/>come and behold him,<br/>born the king of angels!<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>Christ the Lord!</p> <p>2 God from God, light from light,<br/>lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb!<br/>Very God, begotten not created.<br/>O come, let us adore him ...</p> | <p>3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,<br/>born this happy morning;<br/>Jesus, to thee be glory given!<br/>Word of the Father<br/>now in flesh appearing:<br/>O come, let us adore him ...</p> <p>4 Sing choirs of angels,<br/>sing exultation!<br/>Sing all ye citizens of heaven above,<br/>'Glory to God in the highest!'<br/>O come, let us adore him ...<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>Christ the Lord!</p> |
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## **The Gathering**

Grace and peace to you from God.  
**God fill you with truth and joy.**

Welcome, welcome on this Holiest of days.  
As Mary readied herself to give birth to Jesus,  
**let us prepare ourselves to welcome new birth  
into our lives.**

As a child prepares to open a special gift,  
**let us prepare our hearts to receive the wonders  
of God's love.**

As heaven and earth sing of great joy,  
**let us also sing our joyful praises to God.**

## **Lighting the 'Christ' Candle in the Advent Wreath**

Each Sunday during Advent, we have lit one candle representing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we have journeyed through the Advent season.

Today we light the centre "Christ" candle.

As the 'Christ' candle is lit, we sing ...

Carol:

***Light a candle bright and tall***

Words: © David Wood - Tune: DIX - SG343 / TiS314

**Light a candle bright and tall  
for the Christ we greet today.  
Christ has come, our all in all.  
With the angels, let us say:  
shine within our hearts today  
come, O Christ, to us, we pray.**

We were walking in cold and darkness.  
Now we dwell in the warmth of Your light.  
For your love and goodness:  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

A child has been born for us,  
a new beginning is given to us.  
For your love and goodness:  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

You are our Creator, you dwell in our midst.  
You bring us your peace.  
For your love and goodness:  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

As we rejoice in the gift of God's presence with us,  
we echo the words first heard by the shepherds  
in the fields, saying ...

**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 sin 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.**

*We sit or kneel*

Let us pray:  
Jesus, You are the image of the invisible God,  
the first-born of all creation:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, You are God's true child,  
born of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Jesus, You are the Word made flesh,  
full of grace and truth:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence*

Radiant God, you send your light  
into dark and troubled lives;  
**shine in our hearts,  
forgive us our wrongs,  
and set us free to praise you,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*Presider:* God forgives you.  
Be at peace.  
**Amen.**

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
**The word of Christ dwell in us richly.**

*Sentence of the Day*

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
Christ the Lord. *Luke 2: 10–11*

*Collect of the Day*

Almighty God,  
you gave your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him,  
and be born of the Virgin Mary;  
**grant that we, who are born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever.  
Amen.**

*Reading:* **Isaiah 9: 2-7**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

SG352 - Words: Charles Wesley - Tune: MENDELSSOHN

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|---|---|
| <p>1 Hark! The herald angels sing,<br/>“Glory to the new-born King;<br/>Peace on earth, and mercy mild,<br/>God and sinners reconciled!”<br/>Joyful, all you nations, rise.<br/>Join the triumph of the skies.<br/>With the angelic host proclaim,<br/>“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”<br/>Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>“Glory to the new-born King.”</p>           | <p>2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,<br/>Christ, the everlasting Lord<br/>late in time behold Him come,<br/>off-spring of a Virgin’s womb:<br/>veiled in flesh the God-head see,<br/>hail, the incarnate deity!<br/>Pleased as Man with us to dwell,<br/>Jesus, our Emmanuel.<br/>Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>“Glory to the New-born king!”</p> |
| <p>3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace,<br/>Hail, the Sun of Righteousness<br/>light and life to all he brings,<br/>risen with healing in his wings.<br/>mild, he lays his glory by,<br/>born that we no more may die<br/>born to raise us from the earth,<br/>born to give us second birth.<br/>Hark! the herald angels sing,<br/>“Glory to the New-born king!”</p> |   |

*We remain standing*

**Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke,  
chapter two, beginning at the first verse  
**Praise and glory to God.**

*After the reading:* This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ, the Word.**

**The Sermon**

## The Prayers of the People

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

*(adapted from 'Let Us Pray' - Janet Nelson)*

V: God of heaven, dwelling among us, in your mercy:  
R: **Hear our prayer.**

## The Ministry of the Sacrament

We stand

### The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar; our offerings for the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission are collected and presented also.*

### Offertory Hymn: Jesus Christ the Lord is Born

SG355 - tr. Michael Perry © Jubilate Hymns - Tune: PUER NOBIS

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Jesus Christ the Lord is born<br/>all the bells are ringing!<br/>Angels greet the holy One<br/>and shepherds hear them singing,<br/>and shepherds hear them singing.</p> <p>2 'Go to Bethlehem today,<br/>find your king and saviour:<br/>glory be to God on high,<br/>to earth his peace and favour,<br/>to earth his peace and favour!</p> | <p>3 Held within a cattle stall,<br/>loved by love maternal,<br/>see the master of us all,<br/>our Lord of lords eternal,<br/>our Lord of lords eternal!</p> <p>4 Soon shall come the wise men three<br/>rousing Herod's anger;<br/>mothers hearts shall broken be<br/>and Mary's son in danger,<br/>and Mary's son in danger.</p> |
| <p>5 Death from life and life from death<br/>our salvation's story:<br/>let all living things give breath<br/>to Christmas songs of glory,<br/>to Christmas songs of glory!</p>   |  |

## **The Preparation of the Gifts**

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness, and the power,  
and the glory, and the victory and the majesty.

**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,  
and of your own we give you.**

## **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, everliving God,  
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.

When we sinned and turned away  
you called us back to yourself  
and gave your Son to share our human nature.

In him the light which shines for all  
has come into the world,  
and he has become one with us  
that we may become one with you.

In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us  
your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever 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.**

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,  
for 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.

Therefore loving God,  
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life  
and this cup of salvation.

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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray, saying ...

**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 for ever. Amen.**

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.**

## **The Invitation to Communion**

Haere mai e te kāhui a te Atua,  
tangohia ēnei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.  
*Come God's people,  
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.*

*Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.*

*If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.*

*When all who wish to have received communion, we remain seated to sing:*

Carol:

**Away in a Manger** SG345 - trad. Tune: CRADLE SONG

- 1 **Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2 **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant saviour,  
baby who makes every birth holy.

**May we, who like the shepherds  
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love,  
return to our work with joy.**

**May we, for whom the heavens have opened  
to proclaim that God is with us,  
we who have fed on living bread  
and drunk the wine of heaven,  
go out to be instruments of your peace,  
day by day. Amen**

**The Blessing**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with grace to trust his promises  
and obey his will ...  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you, and remain with you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Closing Hymn: **Joy to the world**

CP57 - Isaac Watts © Jubilate Hymns Ltd - Tune: **ANTIOCH**

**1 Joy to the world -  
the Lord has come!  
let earth receive her king,  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven,  
and heaven and nature sing!**

**2 Joy to the earth -  
the saviour reigns!  
let songs be heard on high,  
while fields and streams,  
rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
the wonders of his love,  
the wonders of his love,  
the wonders, wonders of his love.**

**The Dismissal**

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.  
**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

*Acknowledgements: This Order of Service for Christmas Day 2023 in the Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings, has been compiled from copyright resources of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, and is used in accordance with regulations - ANZPB ([anglicanprayerbook.nz](http://anglicanprayerbook.nz)).  
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*(encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings, St Peter's, Riverslea, & St Martin's, Mayfair)  
Christian communities in the heart of Hastings*

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