

Christmas Day Eucharist

10am St Peter's – 2023



***The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings –
Encompassing
St Peter's, Riverslea & St Matthew's, Hastings***

Christian communities in the heart of Hastings

The Gathering of the Community

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

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

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth; we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father. (*John 1:14*)

As the Christmas candle on the Advent Wreath is lit the priest says

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.

**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

God's love was revealed among us
so that we might live through Jesus. (1 John 4:9 adapted)

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

Silence

Jesus, you are the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn 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 Word made flesh,
full of grace and truth:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God forgives you.

Be at peace.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Let us pray with joy and hope.

**Son of God, Child of Mary,
born in the stable at Bethlehem,**

**be born in us this day
that through us the world may know
the wonder of your love.**

Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

After the reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter to Hebrews (1:1-4)

After the reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

We stand for the Gospel Hymn

**Not on a snowy night
By star or candlelight
Nor by an angel band
There came to our dear land**

Te Harinui, Te Harinui

Te Harinui, Glad tidings of great joy

**But on a summer day
Within a quiet bay
The Maori people heard
The great and glorious word**

**The people gathered round
Upon the grassy ground
And heard the preacher say
I bring to you this day**

**Now in this blessed land
United heart and hand
We praise the glorious birth
And sing to all the earth**

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:1-20)

Praise and glory to God.

After the reading:

Te Rongopai tēnei a te Karaiti. 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.

Gracious God, on this holy day angels proclaimed the peace of your
unconquered Sun of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace
and justice.

God of love

grant our prayer.

On this holy day you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of
straw as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of
the homeless and the hungry.

God of love

grant our prayer.

On this holy day shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give
us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

God of love

grant our prayer.

On this holy day we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation. Be
with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds
between us.

God of love

grant our prayer.

On this holy day Christians throughout the world are celebrating
Christ's birth. Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one
light that scatters all our darkness.

God of love

grant our prayer.

On this holy day your living Word leapt down, shedding light on all
who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and
peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

God of love

grant our prayer.

On this holy day heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfil in your love all who have gone before us in the faith. May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

God of love

grant our prayer.

Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfil your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word. **Amen.**

The Peace

We stand

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn:

**Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas;
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.**

**Carol the summer, and welcome the Christ Child
warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.**

**Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,
water and river and lure of the beach.**

**Sing in the happiness of open spaces,
sing a nativity summer can reach!**

**Shepherds and mustersers move over hillsides,
finding, not angels, but sheep to be shorn;
wise ones make journeys whatever the season,
searching for signs of the truth to be born.**

**Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,
made in the moment a woman gives birth;
hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.**

The Great Thanksgiving

We remain standing though feel free to sit if needs be.

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 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.

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 with the faithful who rest in him,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
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.**

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, 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.
We celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

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 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.

The Communion

God is with us, and so we pray, singing

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.

The priest breaks the bread in silence

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 priest invites the people saying

Come God's people,
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

The priest and people receive communion
All who are baptised are welcome to receive communion.

After communion, while we remain kneeling or seated, we sing

Born in the night, Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true, Mary's Child,
go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
Saviour of all, Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.

Prayer After Communion

Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. *(Luke 2:10, 11)*

Silence

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 daily lives 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.**

May Christ the Prince of Peace give you his peace,
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Hark! the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all you nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'**

**Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity!
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.**

**Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.**

The Dismissal of the Community

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

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

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