



**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings**

**encompassing
St Matthew's, Hastings
& St Peter's, Riverslea**

Christian communities in the heart of Hastings

17th March 2024



The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn:

**Praise to the holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways!**

**O loving wisdom of our God!
when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive, and should prevail;**

**And that the highest gift of grace
should flesh and blood refine:
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.**

**O generous love! that he who came
as man to smite our foe,
the double agony for us
as man should undergo:**

**And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

(J. H. Newman. Tune: Gerontius)

I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua,
te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu. **Amine.**

The Lord be with you
The Lord bless you.

We sit or kneel

Jesus, our deliverer, we take your freedom from others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, our hope, we deprive others of hope.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, God's shalom, we distort your peace.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God,
we confess our sins.

Silence

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.**

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

Almighty and eternal God,
you have made of one blood all the nations of the earth
and will that they live together in peace and harmony;
**so order the course of this world
that all peoples may be brought together
under Christ's most gentle rule;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Proclamation

First reading: Jeremiah 31:31–34

Jerusalem was being devastated by a siege from Nebuchadnezzar's army. Jeremiah defies all expectation by declaring God will make a new covenant with the Jewish nation. It is a defiant announcement of hope.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:
in the fulness of your mercy blot out my offences.

**Wash away all my guilt:
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I acknowledge my faults:
and my sin is always before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done evil in your sight:
so that you are justified in your sentence,
and blameless in your judging.**

Evil have I been from my birth?
sinner I am from the time of my conception.

**But you desire truth in our inward being:
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Take hyssop, sprinkle me with water and I shall be clean:
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness:
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.**

Turn away your face from my sins:
and blot out all my misdeeds.

**Create in me a clean heart O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence:
do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Give me the joy of your help again:
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

Second reading: Hebrews 5:5–10

The writer links the Jewish tradition of the mystical, symbolic priestly king Melchizedek with Jesus. Jesus is the obedient and suffering 'priest' of all people.

After the reading:

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

Gospel Hymn:

**We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope let none deride,
for this we count the world but loss.**

**Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is love'
he bears our sins upon the tree;
he brings us mercy from above.**

**The cross – it takes our guilt away:
it holds the fainting spirit up;
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,
and sweetens every bitter cup.**

**It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes its terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light:**

**The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels' theme in heaven above.**

(T. Kelly: Tune Bow Bricknell or Breslau)

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to John 12:20-33

Praise and glory to God.

Jesus presents teaching about the meaning of his death.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word.

Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

Prayers of the People

God of our salvation
We trust in your promise,

The Peace

Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn:

Now to your table spread we come, each one, in faith that you alone

provide the words of life or death:

in wine and bread, in promised food

we find your loving heart, O God.

Hands of the world stretch out your mystery to touch

in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,

to sing in joy, to cry in grief,

to know your meaning for our life.

Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good,

as though all humankind around one table stood,

this bread to break, this wine to taste -

one people in the name of Christ.

(Shirley Erena Murray, Words © 1987 Hope Publishing Company. Tune: Love Unknown)

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

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 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 called us back to yourself
and gave your Son to share our human nature;

Out of love for us he accepted death and,
lifted high upon the cross,
he drew the whole world to himself;
the tree of shame became the tree of glory.
Where life was lost, there life has been restored.

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.

Let us 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Communion

As Christ teaches us we pray

**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 and then says

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.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.**

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.

Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to receive only the bread.

We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God,
you have restored us to life
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.

Continue this healing work within us.

**May we who partake of this mystery
never cease to give you dedicated service.**

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Final Hymn:

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall rise and set no more.**

**People and realms of every tongue
declare his love in sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where Jesus reigns
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blessed.**

**Let all creation rise and bring
distinctive honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again
and earth repeat the loud 'Amen!'**

(I. Watts. Tune: Truro)

The Dismissal

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

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