

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



2nd Sunday of Advent – 8th December 2024

Provoking faith in Hastings communities

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn

**Come with rejoicing, covenant people:
God's love is voicing hope for the earth:
Bringing salvation to all the people.
Your restoration comes in his birth.**

**Gone is the darkness, gone is the sorrow,
ending all starkness, by the new light.
God is now bringing hope for tomorrow.
Welcome, with singing, heaven's delight.**

**Join in thanksgiving. Sing with the angels.
Perfect your living. Mirror God's love.
Refresh your spirit; drink from the deep wells;
Receive the Spirit sent from above.**

**This invitation comes with a warning,
an expectation: live in the Lord.
With him you are sent, mission is forming:
In your commitment Christ is adored.**

*Tune: Bunessan – Words copyright © 2009 F. Richard Garland. Published by The General Board of
Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203.
<http://www.umcworship.org>. Used by permission.*

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

*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.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1:78-79*

As the second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, we sing:

**Light a candle bright and tall
For the Hope within our world.
Hope that heard the ages' call
As the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.**

**Light a candle bright and tall
For the Peace we wish to know.
Peace on Earth for great and small
God's Good News to us bestows.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Peace, to us, we pray**

Words © 2012 David Wood. Tune Dix

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist together,
let us kneel or sit, and in silence call to mind our sins.

Silence

Jesus, you came to call us to repentance.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to share your abundant life.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You will come again in glory to renew the whole creation
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

God forgives you.
Be at peace.

The Peace of Christ rules in our hearts.
The Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Praise and honour to you living God
for John the Baptist,
and for all those voices crying in the wilderness
who prepare your way.
**May we listen when a prophet speaks your word, and obey;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Malachi 3:1-4

*The prophet promises that, as the day of the Lord's judgement nears,
God's messenger will be sent to make ready the way.*

After the reading:

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

Canticle: Luke 1:68-79 – The Song of Zechariah

**Blessed are you O Lord our God:
you have come to your people and set them free.**

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of your servant David.**

**Through your holy prophets you promised of old:
that you would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**You promised to show mercy to our forbears:
and to remember your holy covenant.**

**This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

free to worship you without fear:

holy and righteous in your sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

to give God's people knowledge of salvation:

through the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

A reading from Philippians 1:3-11

Paul greets the new disciples in the town of Philippi, giving thanks for their sharing in the gospel, and prays that they may be found without fault on the judgement day of Christ.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

announces that the Lord is nigh:

awake and listen for he brings

glad tidings of the King of kings.

Let every heart be cleansed from sin,

make straight the way for God within,

and so prepare to be the home

where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord,

our refuge and our great reward

without your grace we waste away

like flowers that wither and decay.

**To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,
and make the fallen sinner stand;
shine out, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**To you, O Christ, all praises be,
whose advent sets your people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore!**

*Charles Coffin (1676 - 1749) translated by John Chandler (1806 - 1876) adapted by Michael Perry
(Word and Music) (1942 - 1996) © Word & Music/Jubilate Hymns Ltd.*

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6
Praise and glory to God.

Luke sets the ministry of John the Baptist in the context of the time.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

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

During the prayers:

Faithful God, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Peace

We stand

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.
Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn

O bless the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us
and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of rescue and release;
God shall fulfil the promise
to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David
a child of grace is given;
A Saviour comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.

**Before him goes the herald
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the messenger of Day.**

**Where once were fear and darkness
the sun begins to rise
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace:
O bless our God and Saviour,
with songs that never cease!**

Michael Perry (1942 - 1996) © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns. Tune: Cruger or Morning Light

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 it 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.

When we sinned and turned away
you called 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 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.

**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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

The Invitation

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 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

We praise and thank you, Creator God,
for you have not left us alone.

Each year you come to us, Emmanuel,
God with us in a manger.

Each time you come to us
in the broken bread and the cup we share.

**In time or out of time you will be revealed
and we shall see you face to face.**

The Dismissal of the Community

May Christ be our new beginning, the hope and salvation of the world, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**Hark! a trumpet call is sounding,
'Christ is near,' it seems to say:
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
children of the dawning day!'**

**Wakened by the solemn warning,
let our earth-bound souls arise;
Christ, our sun, all harm dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**See! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven:**

**That, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.**

**Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father, and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run!**

Words: E Caswell Tune: Merton

We are sent out with these words.

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

