

**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings –
encompassing
St Matthew’s, Hastings & St Peter’s, Riverslea**
Christian communities in the heart of Hastings
3rd Sunday of Advent – 15th December 2024



Provoking faith in Hastings communities

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn

**Rejoice and prepare now the way of the Lord.
Make ready a path for the lifesaving Word.
Make straight in the desert a suitable road,
that all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

**Rejoice and prepare for a life-changing birth.
Prepare for a gift of remarkable worth.
Lift up every valley; the mountains make low,
so all of the earth may believe, see, and know.**

**Rejoice and prepare for our God is at hand!
Ring bells and sound trumpets all over this land.
Come, gather together to welcome this Guest.
Prepare to sing praises; prepare to be blest.**

**Rejoice and prepare for God's power is near.
And shortly the glory of God will appear.
This light in the darkness will shine like the day!
Rejoice as, together, we follow the Way.**

Rusty Edwards (adapted). Tune: ST DENIO (aka "Immortal invisible...")

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.

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. *Zephaniah 3:16-17*

As the third 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**

**Light a candle bright and tall
For the Joy this season brings.
Joy like fountains brimming full.
Through our world now let it ring!
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Joy, 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.

**God our strength and our hope,
grant us the courage of John the Baptist,
constantly to speak the truth,
boldly to rebuke vice
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20
The prophet foretells a time when the judgement of Israel will be ended and the mighty Lord will bring victory and renewal to God's people.

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

Canticle Isaiah 12:2-6 - God is My Salvation

Behold God is my salvation:
I will trust and will not be afraid,
**for the Lord God is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation:
and in that day all of you will say,

**'Give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord:
make known among the nations what the Lord has done,
proclaim that the name of the Lord is exalted.**

'Sing praises for the Lord has triumphed gloriously:
let this be known in all the earth.

'Shout and sing for joy you people of God:
for great in your midst is the Holy One.'

**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 4:4-7

Paul invites the new disciples at Philippi to exult in the Lord, who is near at hand.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn:

**Hark, the glad sound! – the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**

**He comes the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humbled poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.**

(Tune Richmond)

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:7-18

Praise and glory to God.

John the Baptist preaches repentance to those who hear his call to baptism, and he tells them of the mighty one to come

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
and has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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:

Come, Holy God, and, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Peace

We stand

The peace of God be with you all.
In God's justice is our peace.

E te whānau, Christ calls us to live in unity.
We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.

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 the joy of our salvation,
God of the universe,
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light';
there was light.
Your light shines on in our darkness.
For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear your Word,
to do your will
and to be fulfilled in your love.
You sent your Son to be for us
the way we need to follow
and the truth we need to know.
He is coming to reconcile and forgive.
Christ is the new beginning.

You send your Holy Spirit
to strengthen and to guide,
to warn and to revive your Church.
Therefore, with all your witnesses
who surround us on every side,
countless as heaven's stars,
we praise you for our creation and our calling,
with loving and with joyful hearts as we say:

**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.**

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son;
On that night before he died
he took bread and gave 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,
and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:

Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you, shed for all,
to forgive sin;
do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine
we recall your goodness to us.

God of the past and present,
we your people remember your Son.
We thank you for his cross and rising again,
we take courage from his ascension;
we look for his coming in glory
and in him we give ourselves to you.

We celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Send your Holy Spirit,
that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ,
help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer,
give us hope in our calling.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first,
to whom we bring our 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

**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!**

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

**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.**

(Tune: Antioch)

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

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