

# Christmas Eve Eucharist



**The Anglican Parish  
of Greater Hastings**

encompassing

St Matthew's, Hastings & St Peter's, Riverslea  
Christian communities in the heart of Hastings

11.00pm – 2024

## **The Gathering of the Community**

*We stand for the Processional Hymn*

**O come, all ye faithful joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
come and behold him, born the king of angels!  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**God of God, Light of light;  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

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 presiding 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 kneel or 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, light that shines in the dark,**

**child of joy and peace,**

**help us to come to you**

**and be born anew this holy night.**

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

## **The Proclamation**

## **The Readings**

*We sit*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

*After the reading*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter to Titus (2:11-14)

*After the reading*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand for the Gospel Hymn*

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shining  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all the earth.**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven:  
no ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray:  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

*We remain standing*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:1-14)  
**Praise and glory to God.**

*After the reading:*

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

## **The Sermon**

### **The Affirmation of Faith**

*We stand*

**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.

*We kneel or sit*

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night  
by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word of  
compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

God of love

**grant our prayer.**

In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered  
Sun of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

God of love

**grant our prayer.**

In this holy night 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.**

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

God of love

**grant our prayer.**

In this holy night 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.**

In this holy night 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.**

In this holy night your living Word leaped 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.**

In this holy night 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:*

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Through all the earth, goodwill and peace,  
from heaven's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**

**With sorrow brought by sin and strife  
the world has suffered long  
and, since the angels sang, have passed  
two thousand years of wrong;  
the nations, still at war, hear not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise and cease the strife  
and hear the angels sing!**

**And those whose journey now is hard,  
whose hope is burning low,  
who tread the rocky path of life  
with painful steps and slow:  
O listen to the news of love  
which makes the heavens ring!  
O rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!**

And still the days are hastening on –  
by prophets seen of old –  
towards the fullness of the time  
when comes the age foretold:  
then earth and heaven renewed shall see  
the Prince of Peace their king;  
and all the world repeat their song  
which now the angels sing.

## **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;  
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.  
In him the light which shines for all has come into the world,  
and he has 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.

**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

**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*

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.

*The priest and people receive communion*

*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. This is safer for you and others.*

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

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

## **Prayer After Communion**

The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory. (*John 1:14*)

*Silence*

Infinite, intimate God,  
in this Eucharist we have celebrated your presence with us.  
May we grow in the divine life of Christ  
who humbly shared our human life.

**Fill us with joy**

**and send us out to share this good news with others.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ Emmanuel. Amen.**

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.**

*We stand for The Last Gospel – John 1:1-14*

*Final Hymn*

**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 man 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 of earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.

### 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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*The clergy team  
in the Parish of Greater Hastings,  
and all who have their spiritual home here,  
wish you a happy and holy Christmas.  
May you know and experience in your life  
the hope, peace, joy, and love of this holy night.*

There is no service at St Matthew's on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> December.  
We are invited to join with St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Market  
Street, Hastings.

Thereafter, every Sunday in January at St Matthew's  
there is a 10.00am Eucharist.



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