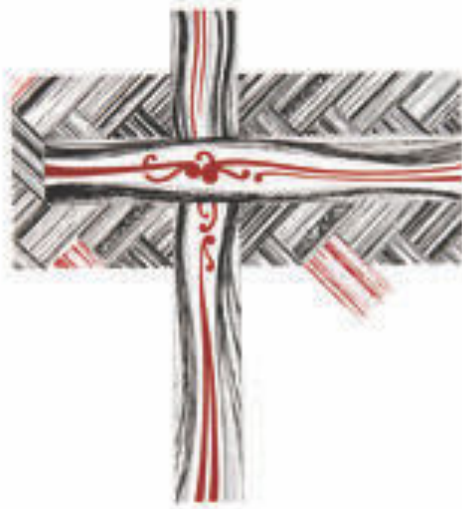




The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

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

Faith Giving Life



***3rd Sunday of the Epiphany
26th January 2025***



**Our service begins on page 456 of
*A New Zealand Prayer Book - He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa***

Opening Hymn:

**When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised;
alike at work and prayer
I find my Lord is there:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When sadness fills my mind
my strength in him I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When earthly hopes grow dim
my comfort is in him:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**The night becomes as day
when from the heart we say:
may Jesus Christ be praised;
the powers of darkness fear
when this glad song they hear:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised;
be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

From the German translated by E. Caswall © in this version Jubilate Hymns

The Collect:

God of all mercy,
your Son brought good news to the despairing,
freedom to the oppressed and joy to the sad;
fill us with your spirit
that the people of our day may see in us his likeness
and glorify your name.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Readings:

A reading from Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A great day in the history of Israel: in the restored city of Jerusalem Ezra gathers the people together so that they may hear and understand the law of Moses.

After the reading:

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

Psalm 19

The heavens proclaim the glory of God:
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

One day speaks to another:
and night shares its knowledge with night,

and this without speech or language:
their voices are not heard.

But their sound goes out into all lands:
their words to the ends of the earth.

In them God has pitched a tent for the sun:
which comes out like a bridegroom,
like an athlete eager to run a race.

Its rising is at one end of the sky,
it runs its course to the other:
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul:
the instruction of the Lord is sure,
and gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures forever:
the judgments of the Lord
are true and righteous every one.

They are more to be desired than gold, even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey, pure honey from the comb.

By them is your servant taught:
and for keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern unwitting sins?:
O cleanse me from my secret faults.

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the better of me:
then shall I be clean, and innocent of great offence.

Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart:
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord my strength and my redeemer.

A reading from 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

Paul describes Christians as the body of Christ. Each individual is a necessary part of the body.

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn:

*Tell my people I love them;
tell my people that I care.
When they feel far away from me,
tell my people I am there.*

**Tell my people I came and died
to give them liberty;
as they abide in me
they will be really free!**

**Tell my people where-e'er they go
to claim my risen power;
my peace and joy and love
is for them hour by hour.**

**Tell my people who grieve and mourn
that I allowed the night
of darkness to descend,
but I am still the Light.**

**Tell my people to share their wealth
and fight the sin of greed;
care for the refugee;
the hungry they're to feed.**

**Tell my people throughout the world
to strive for peace today,
show love for enemies,
be servants of the Way.**

(words: Leonard Barlotti, vv. 3,4,5 Guy Jansen)

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 4:14-21

Praise and glory to God.

Jesus enters the synagogue in Nazareth. Here he gives what has been called his inaugural sermon.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word.

Prayers of the People

During the prayers:

Loving God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Offertory Hymn:

CHORUS:

I am the Light of the World

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery

Of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone.

When the kings and the shepherds

have found their way home.

The work of Christmas is begun!

To find the lost and lonely one,

To heal that broken soul with love,

To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,

To feel the earth below the sky above!

To free the prisoner from all chains,

To make the powerful care,

To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,

To see God's children everywhere!

To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the our Lord in heav'n above!

Words: Jim Stathdee

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 makes it safer for us all.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, lover of all,
by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and blood,
one in the communion of his Spirit.

**Help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the body of Christ.
We ask this in his name. Amen.**

Final Hymn:

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

(B. Rees © Mrs M.E. Rees. Tune Hanover)

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