

**The Anglican Parish  
of Greater Hastings**



***First Sunday of Advent***

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

*Presider:* The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

*We stand*

**Opening Hymn: *Hark! A trumpet call is sounding***

*SG436 - Words: Edward Caswall - Alt. tune: STUTTGART*

- 1 Hark! a trumpet call is sounding,  
'Christ is near,' it seems to say:  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
children of the dawning day!'**
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let our earth-bound souls arise;  
Christ, our sun, all harm dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.**
- 3 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:**
- 4 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.**
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father, and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run!**

*The Presider may greet the people informally before continuing*

## The Gathering

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

**Āmine.**

*(In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen)*

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,  
the love at our beginning  
and without end,  
in our midst and with us.

**God is with us,  
here we find new life.**

Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign  
of justice and love.

**Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,  
release for the captives,  
recovery of sight for the blind  
and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

We sit

## Blessing the Advent Wreath

Gracious God,  
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples,  
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
He is the Saviour of every nation,  
He is the Light of the world.

We ask you to bless us  
and our Advent wreath;  
may it's candle-light shine forth  
to enlighten our journey towards Christmas,  
and give us hope, peace, joy, and love  
as we wait to celebrate, once again,  
the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## ***Lighting the First Candle - Hope***

Today is the first Sunday in Advent.

Advent is a time of waiting and preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth. It is also a time for us to work together for peace among the nations, and peace with each other. It is a time for us to walk in the light God gives us.

As part of our Advent waiting, each week we will light a candle in our Advent wreath - this first candle is to remind us of the hope this season brings.

The round shape of the wreath reminds us of the unbroken love of God.

The green branches speak of new life.

The candles remind us of the light which came into the world with Jesus.

Today, we light the first candle.

The flickering flame reminds us that our hope is lived out in prayer and action; and so together we pray:

**Loving God, through your Spirit,  
you spoke to your prophets in ages past  
of a vision of peace.**

**You spoke to Mary and Joseph  
of a child who would bring new life to the world.  
Speak to each of us this day  
and fill us with Advent hope  
as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. Amen.**

*The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, then we stand to 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.**

*Words: ©2012 David Wood - Tune: Dix*

Song of Praise: ***The Desert shall Blossom***

*Isaiah 35:1, 2, 5, 6, 10*

- <sup>1</sup> The desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
**it shall rejoice with gladness and singing.**
- <sup>2</sup> The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:  
**and the majesty of our God.**
- <sup>3</sup> Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened:  
**and the ears of the deaf unstopped;**
- <sup>4</sup> then shall the lame leap like the hart:  
**and the tongue of the dumb shall sing for joy.**
- <sup>5</sup> For waters shall break forth in the wilderness:  
**and streams in the desert.**
- <sup>6</sup> The ransomed of the Lord shall return:  
**and come with singing,  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.**
- <sup>7</sup> They shall obtain joy and gladness:  
**and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

*We sit or kneel*

*Invitation to Confession:*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light  
the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ,  
let us confess our sins.

*1 Corinthians 4:5*

In a moment of silence,  
we call to mind God's love for us,  
and our need for God's forgiveness.

*Silence*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations  
into the peace of your kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence*

Gracious God,  
for whom we watch and wait  
as we journey through this earthly life;  
**forgive us, cleanse us,  
heal us, and set us free,  
so that we may come to share  
in your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  
Amen**

### *The Absolution*

*Presider:* God forgives you;  
forgive others;  
forgive yourself.

*Silence*

Through Christ, God has put away your sin:  
approach your God in peace.  
**Amen.**

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

*Sentence:* Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths. *Isaiah 2:3a*

*Collect:* Praise and honour to you living God;  
**your coming will be like a thief in the night,  
like lightning flashing across the sky.**  
Grant that we may be ready,  
and our hearts answer, Come Lord Jesus.  
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

*Reading:* **Isaiah 2: 1-5**

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

**Psalm 122 (ANZPB)**

- <sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me:  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
- <sup>2</sup> **And now our feet are standing:  
within your gates O Jerusalem,**
- <sup>3</sup> Jerusalem that is built as a city:  
where people come together in unity.
- <sup>4</sup> **There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord:  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**
- <sup>5</sup> There are set thrones of judgment:  
the thrones of the house of David.
- <sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
may those who love you prosper.**
- <sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls:  
and prosperity within your palaces.
- <sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my kinsfolk and companions:  
I will pray that peace may be with you.**
- <sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the Lord our God:  
I will pray for your good.

*Reading:* **Romans 13: 11-14**

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

Gradual Hymn: **Christ is the world's true light**

SG432 – Words: George Briggs - Tune: **NUN DANKET**

- 1 **Christ is the world's true light,  
its captain of salvation,  
our daystar clear and bright  
desire of every nation;  
new life, new hope awakes,  
where we accept his way:  
freedom her bondage breaks,  
and night is turned to day.**
- 2 **In Christ all races meet,  
their ancient feuds forgetting,  
the whole round world complete,  
from sunrise to its setting:  
when Christ is known as Lord,  
all shall forsake their fear,  
to plough-share beat the sword,  
to pruning hook the spear.**
- 3 **One Lord, in one great name  
unite all who have known you;  
cast out our pride and shame  
that hinder to enthrone you;  
the world has waited long,  
has laboured long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong,  
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.**

*Gospel Reading:* **Matthew 24: 36-44**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew,  
chapter twenty-four, beginning at the thirty-sixth verse.  
**Praise and glory to God.**

*After the reading:* This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ, the Word.**



## The Sermon

*A brief moment of silence follows and/or a musical reflection.*

## Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

**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.

*We sit or kneel*

**V: Jesus, in your mercy:**

**R: Hear our prayer.**

*(from 'Let Us Pray' - Janet Nelson)*

## The Ministry of the Sacrament

We stand

### The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar; our offerings for the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission are collected and presented also.*

### Offertory Hymn: Signs of Hope in Nature

Words: © William Livingstone Wallace - Alt. tune: **ST GERTRUDE**

- 1 **Signs of hope in nature come like Godwits' flight  
raising with Cicadas songs within the night.  
Flaking bark of Matai, Fuchsia's bursting buds,  
turn our thoughts to flowerings of God's summer love.**

*Refrain: "Justice for Earth's peoples, peace for humankind;  
Oneness in God's loving!" sounds the Advent cry.*

- 2 **When Pohutukawa tinges green with red,  
fire will come soon after on its verdant head.  
Signs of hope in people flash from lively eyes;  
tears and warmth and caring help new life arise.**
- 3 **So Christ comes in Advent to our broken dreams,  
bathing all our sorrows, in grief's healing streams.  
"Come into the sunlight" Christ invites us all;  
"Share Christ's feast of loving" hear the Gospel call.**

## The Preparation of the Gifts

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now united on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered  
together from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

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 indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices  
with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory  
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.**

To you indeed be glory, almighty God,  
because 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:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood  
poured out for you;  
do this as often as you drink it  
to remember me.

God of hope and joy,  
we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
With this bread and this cup  
we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

Therefore, loving God,  
recalling now Christ's death and resurrection,  
we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and our celebration,  
that we may be fed  
with the body and blood of your Son  
and be filled with your life and goodness.  
Strengthen us to do your work,  
and to be your body in the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace.

May we praise you and give you glory  
through your First-born, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlastings praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray,  
saying ...

**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.**

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 Invitation to Communion

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 will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.*

*If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.*

## 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.**

*Advent Collect:*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast off  
the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ  
came to us in great humility;  
**so that when he shall come again  
in his glorious majesty  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.  
Amen**

## **The Blessing**

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.**

*We share any notices and news or celebrations*

### Closing Hymn: **We have a Gospel to Proclaim**

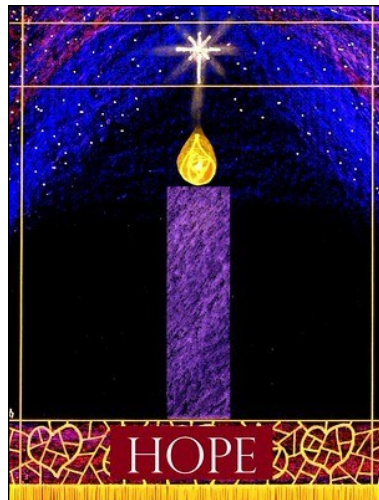
SG331 – Words: Edward Burns © Jubilate Hymns - Tune: **FULDA**

- 1 We have a gospel to proclaim  
Good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing His glory, tell His worth.**
- 2 Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim:  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**
- 3 Tell of His death at Calvary,  
hated by those He came to save;  
in lonely suffering on the cross  
for all He loved, His life He gave.**
- 4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for He was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share His victory.**
- 5 Tell of His reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified;  
He sends His Spirit on His Church  
to live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**6 Now we rejoice to name Him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim:  
we sing His glory, tell His worth.**

### **The Dismissal**

Haere i runga i te aroha. Haere i runga i te rangimārie.  
Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.  
**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**



*Following the service, all are welcome to share morning tea/coffee served in the 'Hospitality Corner' at the southern side of the Church.*

#### *Acknowledgements:*

*This Order of Service has been compiled and/or adapted from copyright resources, offered on-line by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, [ANZPB \(anglicanprayerbook.nz\)](http://anzpb.org.nz/anglicanprayerbook); and The Church of England [Advent | The Church of England](http://www.churchofengland.org.uk/advent) and is used in accordance with regulations;*

*[Celebrating Eucharist](http://www.celebrating-eucharist.org.nz/) © Bosco Peters - <http://www.liturgy.co.nz/celebrating-eucharist>*

*Artwork © John Stuart - [www.stushieart.com](http://www.stushieart.com) - used with permission*

*Hymns reproduced with permission under Licence #CCLI 565525*

## **The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings**

*(encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings, St Peter's, Riverslea, & St Martin's, Mayfair)*

*A Sanctuary Parish pursuing excellence in ministry*

**Parish Support Hub:** phone: 878-9476 ~ P O Box 824, Hastings 4156

email: [hastingsparish@waiapu.com](mailto:hastingsparish@waiapu.com)

website: [www.greaterhastingsanglicanchurch.co.nz](http://www.greaterhastingsanglicanchurch.co.nz)

Bank account: ANZ 01-0646-0246683-01 Greater Hastings Parish

**Parish Vicar:** The Reverend David van Oeveren

ph 06 211 3457 / 021 470 337 - email: [david.vanoeveren@waiapu.com](mailto:david.vanoeveren@waiapu.com)