



**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings**



Second Sunday of Advent

7th December 2025

Presider: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

We stand

Opening Hymn: Song of the Prophets – In ages past

Lift Up Your Heads #53 - Words: Michael Morgan - Tune: KINGSFOLD

- 1 In ages past the mighty Lord
by prophets spoke the Word,
and from their lips God's great design
throughout the earth was heard.
In revelation, parable, bold fantasy and dream,
they echoed God's eternal vow
to ransom and redeem.**
- 2 A voice cries in the wilderness:
"Prepare a desert way,
where God may pass, bring righteousness,
and rule without delay."
The weak who wait upon the Lord
with eagles' strength shall rise,
imagined blessings of the past
now real before their eyes.**
- 3 The faithful bound in tyrants' chains
shall find their hopes fulfilled,
and stony hearts become true flesh
as God's love is revealed.
Dry bones will dance and whirlwinds sing
when joy supplants despair,
and every corner of the earth
proclaim, the Lord is there!**
- 4 Yet still in present, troubled days
we seek to hear God's voice,
and in the face of our distress
find reason to rejoice.**

**Grant us the wisdom to discern
through faith who we should be,
a fallen race, restored through grace,
a captive world set free.**

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 and peace to you from God
God fill you with truth and joy.

We sit

Lighting the Second Candle - Peace

Today is the Second Sunday in Advent.
Along with the prophets and people through the ages,
we dream of a world of peace and justice.
We share John the Baptist's dream of making
crooked paths straight, of making a smooth highway
broad enough for all God's people to move on together
in peace and harmony.

Our actions can help build that highway.

God's dream can become our dream.

Last week we lit the first Advent candle,
reminding us to hope while we wait.

The flame of this second candle reminds us that God's
dreams can become real and burn brightly in our world;
and so together we pray:

**Loving God, give us the desire,
the willingness, and the courage,
to be part of your dream for a world of peace and justice.
We pray in the name of Jesus, your dream come true.
Amen.**

The second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, then we stand to sing:

**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

Song of Praise: ***Peace for the Nations***

Isaiah 2: 2-5

- ¹ In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house:
 will be established as the highest of the mountains.
- ² It will be raised above the hills:
 and all the nations will flock to it.
- ³ Many peoples will come and they will say:
 **'Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,**
- ⁴ **'that we may be taught the ways of the Lord:
 and may walk in the right paths.'**
- ⁵ From the mountain of the Lord shall go forth the law:
 and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
- ⁶ The Lord will judge between the nations:
 and settle disputes for many peoples.
- ⁷ They shall beat their swords into ploughshares:
 and their spears into pruning hooks.
- ⁸ Nation shall not lift up sword against nation:
 nor ever again prepare for war.
- ⁹ Come, O house of Jacob:
 let us walk in the light of the Lord.

We sit or kneel

Invitation to Confession:

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen,
and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

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: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Mark 1:15

Collect: Almighty God,
you sent your servant John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son;
**grant that those who proclaim your word
may so guide our feet into the way of peace,
that we may stand with confidence before him
when he comes in his glorious kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Reading: **Isaiah 11: 1-10**

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

Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 (ANZPB)

- ¹ Give the king your justice O God:
and your righteousness to a king's son,
- ² **that he may judge your people rightly:
and uphold the poor with justice.**
- ³ Let the mountains bring forth peace for the people:
and the hills prosperity with justice.
- ⁴ **May the king defend the cause of the poor
among the people:
save the children of the needy
and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun endures:
as long as the moon from age to age.

- ⁶ **May he come down like rain upon the grass:
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace till the moon is no more.
- ¹⁸ **May all nations pray to be blessed as he is:
and all peoples call him blessèd.**
- ¹⁹ Blessèd are you O Lord our God:
for you alone do marvellous things.

Reading: Romans 15: 4-13

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

Gradual Hymn: **Rejoice, Rejoice, Come Sing with Me**

Words: Adam Tice - from Psalm 122 - © 2011 GIA Publications

Tune: **FOREST GREEN** [O, little town of Bethlehem]

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, come sing with me:
“This is the house of God!”
The temple gates swing wide and free –
this is the house of God!
For every tribe and every race
this is the house of God!
God calls us to this holy place –
this is the house of God!**
- 2 In market square and city street
we seek the peace of God.
Before the ruler’s judgement seat,
we seek the peace of God.
In joyful song and whispered prayer
we seek the peace of God.
God’s city can be anywhere
we seek the peace of God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3: 1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew,
chapter three, beginning at the first 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: Come, Jesus:

R: **come to us.**

(from 'Let Us Pray' - Janet Nelson)

In a moment of silence,
we pray for ourselves and our own needs.

Silence

God, you shape our dreams.
**As we put our trust in you
may your hopes and desires be ours,
and we your expectant people.
Amen.**

The Ministry of the Sacrament

We stand

The Peace

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

We may exchange a sign of Christ's peace with those around us.

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: **Rejoice and prepare now the way of the Lord**

Words: Rusty Edwards © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.

Alt. tune: **ST DENIO** [Immortal, invisible, God only wise]

- 1 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.**

- 2 Rejoice and prepare for a miracle 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.
- 3 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 praise; prepare to be blest.
- 4 Rejoice and prepare for God's power is near.
And shortly the glory of God will appear.
This light in the darkness will show us the way.
Rejoice and prepare for this great holy day.

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.**

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.

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:

Creator God, we praise you
for your love in coming to us,
unworthy though we are.
Give us grace to accept the Christ
who comes in your name,
and the courage to be Christ for others.
**Hear our prayer for your love's sake.
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: **Wild and lone the prophet's voice**

Words: Carl P. Daw Jnr. - Tune: **HEINLEIN** [aka 40 days & 40 nights]

- 1 **Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:**
- 2 **"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
yield your life to God's control."**
- 3 **"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.**
- 4 **Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."**
- 5 **With such preaching, stark and bold,
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.**
- 6 **So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.**

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
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:

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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

website: 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