



**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings**



Third Sunday of Advent

14th 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: Hail to God's Own Anointed

TiS275 / CP87 - Words: James Montgomery - Tune: CRUGER

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Hail to God's own anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
God's reign on earth begun!
Christ comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.</p> <p>2 Christ comes with justice surely
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.</p> | <p>3 Christ shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.</p> <p>4 To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever:
that name to us is Love.</p> |
|---|--|

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 Third Candle - Joy

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent.

We join with the writers of the Bible in shouting for joy that God is always with us.

The child of Mary brought a message of compassion and healing, the things that make for real joy.

That joy spreads as we follow Jesus' words and actions.

The first Advent candle reminds us to have hope for a better world; the second, reminds us that God's dreams for peace can become real in our world.

Today, we light the third Advent candle.

It reminds us that God calls us to be part of the healing of the world - to bring real joy;
and so together we pray:

**Loving God, help us bring Christ's compassion and caring to all, and, especially in this season of giving, may our words and actions give joy to those we meet.
Amen.**

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

**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

Song of Praise: ***The Song of Zechariah - Benedictus***

- 1 Blessed are you O Lord our God:
 you have come to your people and set them free.
- 2 **You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
 born of the house of your servant David.**

- 3 Through your holy prophets you promised of old:
that you would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
- 4 **You promised to show mercy to our forbears:
and to remember your holy covenant.**
- 5 This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 **free to worship you without fear:
holy and righteous in your sight
all the days of our life.**
- 7 And you, child, shall be called
the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
- 8 **to give God's people knowledge of salvation:
through the forgiveness of their sins.**
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 **to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 1: 68-79 (ANZPB adapted)

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: Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.' *Isaiah 34: 3-4*

Collect: Terror and doom, and wrath to come,
John your herald preached to bring us to repentance;
open our eyes, almighty God,
show us our sin, and grant us forgiveness.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake.
Amen.

Reading: **Isaiah 35: 1-10**

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

Psalm 146: 5-10 (ANZPB)

- 5 Happy are those whose helper is the God of Jacob:
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
- 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them:
who keeps a promise for ever,
- 7 who defends the cause of the oppressed:
and gives food to the hungry.
- 8 The Lord sets free the prisoner,
and gives sight to the blind:
the Lord raises up those bowed down,
and loves those who are just.
- 9 The Lord cares for the stranger in the land,
and sustains the widows and orphans:
but turns the way of the wicked to ruin.
- 10 The Lord shall reign for ever:
your God O Jerusalem shall reign for all generations.
O praise the Lord.

Reading: James 5: 7-10

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

Gradual Hymn: The Prophets Caught a Vision

Words: David Bjorlin, b 1984 © 2020 GIA Publications

Alt. tune: AURELIA

- 1 The prophets caught a vision
too thrilling to ignore
of children leading nations
no longer armed for war,
of weapons used for planting
and wolf and lamb at play,
of wild things all conspiring,
preparing God's own way.**
- 2 The prophets sought a vision,
a dream of God's own reign
where peace embraces justice
and joy eclipses pain.
And though such dreams seem useless
their purposes grow clear:
to free minds long held captive
and loose hearts gripped by fear.**
- 3 God, grow in us a vision
beyond our common dreams
that wakes imaginations
asleep in selfish schemes.
Then rising up together,
your vision as our goal,
we work toward that great promise:
a shattered world made whole.**

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 11: 2-11**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew,
chapter eleven, beginning at the second 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 and save 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: **O for a thousand tongues to sing**

Voices United #326 / Sing Glory #55ii - Words: Charles Wesley - Tune: **LYNGHAM**

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise, [x2]
the glories of my God and king,
the triumphs of God's grace. [x3]**

- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease; [x2]
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace. [x3]
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive, [x2]
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe. [x3]
- 4 Hear him, you deaf, you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ; [x2]
you blind, now see your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy! [x3]
- 5 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim, [x2]
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name. [x3]

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.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore
with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again
he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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:

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**

The Blessing

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory;
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: ***Joyful, joyful, we adore You***

Words: Henry van Dyke - Voices United - Tune: **HYMN TO JOY** [Beethoven]

- 1 **Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

- 2 **All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.**

- 3 **You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

- 4 **Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.**

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

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