The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

Order of Service for the Third Sunday of Lent
8th March 2026
at St Matthew's Church

Presider: This is the day which the Lord has made.
All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We stand

<u>*Opening Hymn:*</u> ***Come to us, creative Spirit***
SG621 - Words: David Mowbray © 1979 Stainer & Bell - Tune: **ANGEL VOICES** *(Monk)*

1 Come to us, creative Spirit;
in our Father's house;
ev'ry human talent hallow,
hidden skills arouse
that, within your earthly temple,
wise and simple
may rejoice.

2 Poet, painter, music-maker,
all your treasures bring;
craftsman, actor, graceful dancer,
make your offering.
Join your hands in celebration;
let creation
shout and sing!

3 Word from God eternal springing,
fill our minds, we pray;
and in all artistic vision
give integrity.
May the flame within us burning
kindle yearning
day by day.

4 In all places and for ever
glory be expressed
to the Son, with God the Father
and the Spirit blessed.
In our worship and our living
keep us striving
for the best.

The Presider may greet the people informally before continuing

The Gathering

E te whānau a te Karaiti,
welcome to this holy table;
welcome to you,
for we are Christ's body,
Christ's work in the world.
Welcome to you whose baptism makes you
salt of the earth and light to the world.
Rejoice and be glad.
Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen.
Christ is our light,
the joy of our salvation.

Praise and glory to Christ,
God's new beginning for humanity
making ritual water gospel wine,
cleansing all our worship.

Love and loyalty to Christ,
who gives us the gospel.
Praise to Christ who calls us to holiness.

Song of Praise

Christ is the living water
cleansing, refreshing, making all things new.
Christ is the living bread;
food for the hungry,
strength for the pilgrim and the labourer.

So now we offer our thanks
for the beauty of these islands;
for the wild places and the bush,
for the mountains, the coast and the sea.

We offer thanks and praise to God
for this good land;
for its trees and pastures, for its plentiful crops
and the skills we have learned to grow them.

Our thanks for marae and the cities we have built;
for science and discoveries,
for our life together,
for Aotearoa, New Zealand.

We sit or kneel

Forgiveness

We come seeking forgiveness
for all we have failed to be and do
as members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.
Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.

The presiding priest says

Mā te Atua e muru ō koutou hara; kia mau te rongo.
God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

Rejoice and be glad,
for Christ is resurrection,
reconciliation for all the human race.

We shall all be one in Christ,
one in our life together.
Praise to God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world.

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

Sentence: ‘The water that I will give,’ says the Lord,
‘will become in you a spring of water
welling up to eternal life.’ *John 4:14*

Collect: Give us grace and courage to hope,
and to risk disappointment.
Teach us to pray expectantly,
and when our prayers seem to fail,
bring us to pray again and again;
for you are our God,
who acts, and will act again.
Hear this prayer for your love’s sake.
Amen.

Reading: **Exodus 17: 1-7** - *Water from the rock*

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

Psalm 95 *(ANZPB)*

1 O come let us sing to the Lord:
let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving:
and sing to the Lord with psalms of triumph.

3 For you Lord are a great God:
and a great king above all gods.

4 In your hand are the depths of the earth:
so also are the heights of the mountains.

5 The sea is yours and you made it:
the dry land also which your hands have fashioned.

6 O come let us bow down and worship:
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

7 For the Lord is our God:
we are the Lords people, the flock that God shepherds.

8 O that today you would listen to God's voice:
'Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 'when your forbears tried me, and put me to the test:
although they had seen my works.

10 'Forty years long I had a loathing for
this generation and said:
"They are a people whose hearts are perverse,
for they give no heed to my ways."

11 'Then I vowed in my anger:
"They shall never enter my rest."'

Reading: **Romans 5: 1-11 -** *Reconciled to God by Christ's death*

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

Gradual Hymn: ***I heard the voice of Jesus say***
CP469 / TiS585 - Words: Horatius Bonar - Tune: **KINGSFOLD**

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 **I heard the voice of Jesus say,**
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
till travelling days are done.

Gospel Reading: **John 4: 5-42 -** *The woman at the well*

The Holy Gospel according to John
chapter four, beginning at the fifth verse
Praise and glory to God.

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

The Sermon

After a brief period of silence, we stand to sing

Hymn: ***I have no bucket and the well is deep***
Words: Brian Wren, adapted - Tune: **UNDE ET MEMORES** *(Monk)*

1 **I have no bucket, and the well is deep.**
My thirst is endless, and my throat is dry.
I ask you, stranger, silent at my side,
can words refresh my longings if you speak?
I have no bucket, and the well is deep.
Can words refresh my longings if you speak?

2 **Can love unbar the strongrooms of the mind**
and scour the tombs and warrens underground
for toys and treasures lost, or never found,
for all I cannot name, yet ache to find?
Can words refresh my longings if you speak?
I have no bucket, and the well is deep.

3 **Who are you, strange yet friendly at my side,**
and can you see and judge, yet understand
my hidden self, and heal with wounded hands?
Are you the path, the gateway and the guide,
the keys, the living water, and the light?
Can words refresh my longings if you speak?

4 **Come break the rock, and bid the rivers flow**
from deep unending wells of joy and worth,
for tears, for drinking, drowning and new birth,
and I shall find and give myself, and know
the keys, the living water, and the light.
You speak and fill me from your well so deep.

The Prayers of the People

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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.

We sit or kneel

Jesus, Saviour of the world, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

God our hope,
may your blessing empower
our thanksgivings and our prayer;
for we put our trust in you the living God,
risking disappointment, risking failure,
working and waiting expectantly.
Amen.

Ministry of the Sacrament

We stand

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.
Romans 5.1,2

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

We may share a sign of Christ's peace with those around us, by shaking hands and saying "Peace be 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: ***Crashing Waters at Creation***
The New Century Hymnal #326 - Words: Sylvia Dunstan - Tune: **STUTTGART**

1 **Crashing waters at creation,**
ordered by the Spirit's breath
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.

2 **Parting water stood and trembled**
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage,
channel to a life made new.

3 **Cleansing water once at Jordan**
closed around the One fore-told
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

4 **Living water, never ending,**
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

The Preparation of the Gifts

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love,
accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
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 in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you
for your mercy and join with saints and angels
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.

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son,
who washed his disciples' feet.
'I am among you,' he said, 'as one who serves.'

On that night before he died
he took bread and gave 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,
and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:
Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin;
do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine
we recall your goodness to us.

God of the past and present,
we your people remember your Son.
We thank you for his cross and rising again,
we take courage from his ascension;
we look for his coming in glory
and in him we give ourselves to you.

Send your Holy Spirit,
that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share his cup
draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ,
help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer,
give us hope in our calling.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

Praise, glory and love be yours,
this and every day,
from us and all people,
here and everywhere. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, 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.

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.
Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.
Christ is risen from the dead.

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.

Post-Communion Sentence

Create in me a clean heart O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51: 10

Prayer after Communion

Praise and glory to you, Jesus Christ our Saviour,
for you do not call the righteous
but us sinners to repentance.
You draw us away from the easy road
that would lead to our destruction.
You call us instead to seek God's kingdom,
to strive for what is right,
and to lay up our treasure in heaven.

God of our pilgrimage,
we have found the living water.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forth on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lenten Wreath

Our Lenten wreath reminds us
of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness,
and His journey towards the cross of Good Friday.

Today, as we take another step in our journey
through this Lenten season,
we now extinguish the third candle
in the Lenten wreath, and we pray …

**Loving God, keep us steadfast in your word,
and when we fall, raise us again and restore us
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: ***Love will be our Lenten calling***

TiS684 © Elizabeth J. Smith, 1999 - Tune: **PICARDY** *- (Lent 3 - verse 2 only)*

2 **Peace will be our Lenten living
as we turn for home again,
longing for the words of pardon,
stripping off old grief and pain,
till we stand, restored and joyful,
with the Church on Easter day.**

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourself, and to take up your cross
and follow him;
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

Closing Hymn: ***From Ashes to the Living Font***

One in Faith #420 - Words: © Alan J Hommerding
Alt.tune: **St Peter** *(with verse 3 for Lent 3A)*

1 **From ashes to the living font**
your church must journey, Lord,
baptised in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.

2 **Through fasting, prayer, and charity**
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

3 **For thirsting hearts let waters flow,**
our fainting souls revive;
and at the well your waters give
our everlasting life.

4 **From ashes to the living font**
your church must journey still,
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.

The Dismissal

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

Acknowledgements:

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The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

Parish Support Hub: phone: 878-9476 ~ P O Box 824, Hastings 4156
email: hastingsparish@waiapu.com
website: www.greaterhastingsanglicanchurch.co.nz
Facebook: Parish of Greater Hastings, 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