



# The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings



**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**at St Matthew's Church**

*Presider:* Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
**He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*We stand*

Opening Hymn: **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing**

*CP140 – Words: Brian Wren - Tune: TRURO*

- 1 **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
- 2 **Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.**
- 3 **In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.**
- 4 **Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

*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.**

## *A Litany of Praise and Thanksgiving*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death,  
we praise you for changed lives  
and new hopes at Easter:

You came to Mary in the garden,  
and turned her tears into joy.  
For your love and goodness:  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

You came to the disciples in the upper room,  
and turned their fear into courage.  
For your love and goodness:  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

You came to the disciples by the lake-side,  
and turned their failure into faith.  
For your love and goodness:  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

You came to the disciples on the Emmaus road,  
and turned their despair into hope.  
For your love and goodness:  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

You come to us in our unworthiness and shame,  
and turn our weakness into triumph.  
For your love and goodness:  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

Lord Jesus, wherever there are tears, or fear,  
or failure, or despair, or weakness:  
**come, reveal to us your love, your peace,  
your mercy, and your risen power;  
for the glory of your name.**  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

## **The Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*We sit or kneel*

*A New Commandment*

Hear the teaching of Christ:  
a new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist together,  
in a moment of silence, we call to mind our sins.

*Silence*

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.      *Lord, have mercy.*

**E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
E te Karaiti, kia aroha mai. *Christ, have mercy.*  
**E te Karaiti, kia aroha mai.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
E te Ariki, kia aroha mai. *Lord, have mercy.*  
**E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.**

*Silence*

Loving God,  
your presence comforts us as we journey  
through desert times and dark days;  
**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**

*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 of the Day*

‘Those who love me will keep my word,’ Jesus promises,  
‘and my Father will love them, and we will come to them  
and make our home with them.’ *John 14:23*

Collect of the Day

Eternal God,  
light of the minds that know you,  
joy of the hearts that love you,  
strength of the wills that serve you;  
**grant us so to know you  
that we may truly love you,  
and so to love you  
that we may gladly serve you,  
now and always. Amen.**

Reading:

**Acts 17: 22-31** - *Paul's message to the Athenians*

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

**Psalm 66: 8–20** (ANZPB)

8 The Lord has preserved us among the living:  
and kept our feet from stumbling.  
9 **For you O God have tested us:  
and refined us as silver is refined.**  
10 You led us into the snare:  
you laid a burden of trouble upon our backs.  
11 **You let enemies ride over our heads,  
we went through fire and water:  
but you have brought us out into a place of liberty.**  
12 I will come into your house with burnt- offerings:  
and I will pay you my vows,  
13 **the vows which I made with my lips:  
and swore with my mouth when I was in trouble.**  
14 I will offer fat beasts in sacrifice,  
with the smoke of burning rams:  
I will prepare you an offering of bulls and goats.  
15 **Come then and listen, all you that fear the Lord:  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.**

- 16 I cried aloud to God:  
high praise was ready on my tongue.
- 17 **If I had cherished evil in my heart:  
the Lord would not have heard me.**
- 18 But truly God has heard me:  
and has given heed to my prayer.
- 19 **Blessèd are you O God,  
for you have not rejected my prayer:  
nor withdrawn from me your steadfast love.**

*Reading:* **1 Peter 3: 13-22** - *The days of Noah, a sign of baptism*  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Gradual Hymn:* **Maker of Mystery**  
*HIOS #47 - Words: © Marnie Barrell, 1996 - Alt. tune: **DOWN AMPNEY***

- 1 **Maker of mystery,  
dreamer of what will be,  
wellspring and fertile ground of all our growing:  
tending the buried seed,  
foreseeing every need,  
you draw us into life beyond our knowing.**
- 2 **Christ, strong and living vine  
spreading through space and time,  
deep-rooted in the love of God our Mother:  
dying, you live and share  
your strength with us, to bear  
ripe fruit in season for the life of others.**
- 3 **Wild Spirit, springing green,  
coiled in the depths unseen,  
promise of seed within the fruit maturing:  
new life, you grow and swell,  
burst from the outgrown shell,  
hundredfold yield in every age ensuring.**

- 4 **Living and loving God,  
sing in the pulse of our blood;  
help us to know you in your own creation,  
love you, the life of all,  
serve you and hear your call  
from our first forming to our full salvation.**

*We remain standing*

**Gospel Reading: John 14: 15-21 - Christ our advocate**

The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter fourteen,  
beginning at the fifteenth verse.

**Praise and glory to God.**

*After the reading:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ, the Word.**

## **The Sermon**

*A brief period of silence and/or musical reflection may follow;  
then we stand to affirm our faith.*

## **An Affirmation of Faith**

Let us celebrate and affirm our faith.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**We believe and trust in God the Father,  
Creator of the universe.**

Do you believe and trust in God's Son, Jesus Christ?

**We believe and trust in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord and our Saviour.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
the giver of life.**

This is the faith of the Church;

**this is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

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

We sit or kneel

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

V: Loving God, in your mercy:

R: **Hear our prayer.**

God of peace, let us your people know,  
that at the heart of turbulence  
there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you.  
**Keep us from being content with things as they are,  
that from this central peace there may come  
a creative compassion, a thirst for justice,  
and a willingness to give of ourselves  
in the spirit of Christ. Amen.**

## 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: Alleluia, sing to Jesus!

CP278 – Words: WCDix - Tune: HYFRYDOL

- 1 Alleluia, sing to Jesus!  
his the sceptre, his the throne:  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hear the songs of holy Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
'Jesus out of every nation  
has redeemed us by his blood!'**

- 2 Alleluia! not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now:  
Alleluia! he is near us;  
faith believes, but knows not how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
whom the angels now adore,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'.
- 3 Alleluia! bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay:  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
come to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
you, the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heaven your throne:  
you, within the veil have entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
yours the blood and yours the body,  
in our Eucharistic feast.

### *The Preparation of the Gifts*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In your loving care  
you spread before us the table of life  
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.  
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is the way, the truth and the life.  
**Blessed be God for ever. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Lift your hearts to heaven  
**where Christ in glory reigns.**

Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed that we should praise you,  
God of love, our source and our fulfilment,  
for you create all things,  
and in you we live and move and have our being.  
Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

When the times had at last grown full  
and the earth had ripened in abundance,  
you made us in your image for yourself.  
And even though we turn from you,  
again and again you call us to yourself,  
and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own  
to rear them in your way of compassionate love.  
From your own being you sent Jesus among us,  
incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and born of Mary our sister.

Jesus revealed your care for all you have made,  
and showed us your way of reconciliation.  
Looking forward to the joy of new life  
Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross  
and in rising again became the first-born  
of the renewed whanau. (*family*)

You sent your Holy Spirit and gave birth to us  
your church.  
Your Spirit stays to nurture and to guide us.

Now we join hands around your table,  
and with all creation  
we hymn your praise for your unending love,

**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.

And so in this great sacrament  
we celebrate and 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.  
Through your Holy Spirit,  
burning as a flame, gentle as a dove,  
may we who receive these gifts  
live lives of justice, love, and prayer,  
and be a voice for those who are not heard.

In union with your whole church  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.

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

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

The risen Christ is in our midst,  
so with Christ 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**

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour  
Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us.  
Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*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**

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament  
with the food and drink of eternal life:  
**help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Alleluia! Amen**

### **The Blessing**

God the Father, by whose glory  
Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him  
in his risen life...  
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: Christ comes to us as one unknown**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Tune: REPTON [CP411 / SG497]

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Christ comes to us as<br/>one unknown,<br/>a breath unseen, unheard;<br/>as though within a heart of stone,<br/>or shrivelled seed in darkness sown,<br/>a pulse of being stirred,<br/>a pulse of being stirred.</p> <p>2 Christ comes when souls<br/>in silence lie<br/>and thoughts of day depart;<br/>half seen upon the inward eye,<br/>a falling star across the sky<br/>of night within the heart,<br/>of night within the heart.</p> | <p>3 Christ comes to us in<br/>sound of seas,<br/>the ocean's fume and foam;<br/>yet small and still upon the breeze,<br/>a wind that stirs the tops of trees,<br/>a voice to call us home,<br/>a voice to call us home.</p> <p>4 Christ comes in love<br/>as once he came<br/>by flesh and blood and birth;<br/>to bear within our mortal frame<br/>a life, a death, a saving Name,<br/>for every child of earth,<br/>for every child of earth.</p> |
|--|--|
- 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown;  
believed, obeyed, adored:  
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,  
as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Saviour and our Lord,  
our Saviour and our Lord.

**The Dismissal**

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead  
at work within you,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia!**

Following the service, all are welcome to share a time of fellowship and refreshment over morning tea which is served in the 'Hospitality' corner at the southern side of the church.



Acknowledgements:

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