

Saint Matthew in the City

1st Sunday in Lent

10th February 2008

Processional Hymn

Welcome

Liturgist

There are many people suffering in our world. They cry out for help. Yet we are bound by our own worries, frenetic lifestyles, and lack of vision. We are bound too by our own suffering. We don't believe we can help.

To light even one candle is to say to the darkness of oppression: 'I beg to differ.' To light a candle is to claim the power to make a difference.

May the sparks of the God that is Love

Ignite our passion for change

Offering the light of hope

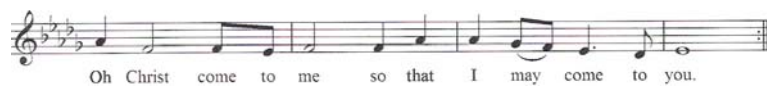
To all who bravely differ.

Song of Zaccheus

**Always, our darkness contains a seed of light
that struggles to grow into brightness.**

**Evil so hungers for good that often
it will consume itself in its longing.**

For light is the truth of all existence.



**Holy One, I have always known
the bright sparks of your presence in me.
You shine like a star in my nights,
creating in me a great longing
to once more, be one with you!**



**But I am small, O God, one of your own,
and I do not see over the crowds.
I'll do anything to attract your attention,
work, pray, climb the tree of yearning
and recklessly crawl out on its branches.**



**When at last you are sitting at my table,
and my entire house is aglow with you,
I ponder on the mystery of my darkness.
Would I have recognized my need for you
if my life had been as bright as the day?**



Joy Cowley

The Words of Scripture

“Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you.”

“God is love and those who abide in love abide in God.”

“There is no fear in love.”

Spirit of hope, search our hearts.

Let us pause in silence, listening for grace.

Please sit or kneel

Silence

We sing three times

Meditative (♩ = 60)

By

6 *p*

night, we has - ten, in dark ness, to seek for the liv - ing wa - ter,

10 *pp cres* *mf* *fine*

on - ly our thirst light us on - wards, on - ly our thirst lights us on - wards. By

Priest

We know that we are the ones who are divided and we are the ones who must come back together. May we learn love, compassion, and honour that we may heal the earth, each other, and ourselves.

“May we know the grace of forgiveness and offer that grace to others.” Let the fires of hope be rekindled among us, giving light and warmth to the world. Amen.

Sentence and Prayer for the Day

[Jesus] was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts.

Mark 1:13a

Together we pray

Divine Spirit, you drive us into the deserts – those places we’d prefer not to go. Give us clarity to know what is right, courage to reject what is expedient, and wisdom to know the difference. Amen

The First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Gradual Hymn

The Gospel Reading:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter four beginning at verse one

Matt 4:7-15

Before

Shine on our path - ways

This is the Gospel of Christ

After

May we hear wis - dom

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Love called God, the sparks of hope.

5 (organ) Blaze, jus-tice blaze Blest is Je - sus who lit up our world who

10 lit up our world Ho - san - - na, ho -

12 san - na, ho - san - na to the low - est and the least.

And so we remember on the night before he died Jesus took bread; when he had given thank he broke it, gave it to his friends 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 thanks he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood which is shed for you and for many; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

With this bread and wine we remember the dream of God, and the call of God.

We of-fer bread to eat with eyes and hands held o-pen. We pass this

cup to share. We take, break, bless and give kind-ling hope ev-rywhere.

Recalling the promise of tomorrow we wait out the long night of struggle, Remembering our brother Jesus, our sister Mary, and all our spiritual forbears, Rejoicing in the bonds of solidarity and the unquenchable Divine Energy We take, eat and drink, knowing that the Spirit of God is here Within and among us, in simple food, in simple grace, calling us to freedom's banquet.

O Candle of calm and peace, lending your beauty to our darkened corners:

Come and share your halo of light with us, to comfort and to guide.

O Star of the darkened sky, you lead us if we choose to follow,

By night and by day, seeing and not seeing, we journey towards the truth.

O Sudden Flare, you explode like a burst of match flame in the darkness:

Come and illumine our plans, protests, and petitions for justice.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the hope of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
 way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a -
 way, nev - er dies a - way *fine* With - in our dark - est

The Invitation

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds, for all are welcome to share in this grace.

There is a chance for dipping - simply hold the bread in front of you to signify your choice.

Te Taro, o te Ora. The Bread of Life

Te Kapu o te Ora. The Cup of Salvation.

Music during Communion

Panis Angelicus *Saint Saëns 1835-1905*
Corpus Christi *Trad.*

Prayer after Communion

I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the colour and fragrance of a flower – the Light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence. *Helen Keller*

I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too will end, that peace and tranquillity will return once more. *Anne Frank*

May the blessing of light be on us, light without and light within. *Celtic*

We remain seated for the Lord's Prayer in Maori

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki, ka inoi tatou:

E to matou Matua i te rangi kia tapu tou Ingoa. Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga. Kia meatia tau e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite ano ki to te rangi. Homai ki a matou aiane he taro ma matou mo tenei ra. Murua o matou hara, me matou hoki e muru nei, i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou. Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia; engari whakaorangia matou i te kino: Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te kororia, Ake, ake, ake. Amine.

Notices

Blessing

May Divine Wisdom hold us in the palm of Her hand
And breathe into us gently Her life-giving Spirit.

May the light of the new dawn break over us
Bringing insight, fresh courage and hope.

And may the fierce passion of the Love that is God
Send us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Final Hymn

Liturgist from the rear of the Church:

Let us dream together, pray together, work together, to build one world of peace and justice for all.
Amen. We go in the light and promise of hope.

Organ Voluntary

Ein' Feste Burg *Luther arr. MCW Bell*

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