

Saint Matthew-in-the-City

Sunday, 12th July 2009

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Processional Hymn

God of freedom, God of Justice
God whose love is strong as death,
God who saw the dark of prison,
God who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror.
God whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
God who shed the tears and blood;
move in us the power of pity,
restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers,
of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1931

*Music: Picardy, French trad. Carol melody from
"Chansons Populaires des Provinces de France", 1860*

Welcome

Hope is as welcoming as a smile, as comforting as a kindness, and as wondrous as a flower emerging from the pavement. Today we gather in this beautiful place to rekindle hope. Here beauty, music, and prayer combine. Here we meet God in our thoughts, our dreams, and our neighbour. Here we find hope.

Pain and darkness, violence and brokenness
Where is our hope and salvation?

God is here, unfolding from each of us.
Let us rejoice in song and word and deed.

This is what God asks of you: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly upon our earth.

Together we pray

God of grace, in whom we live and move and dance for joy, guide our steps through the complexities of life; widen our vision that our sight be not limited by what we see, nor our wisdom by what we know, nor our love by what we can accept. Amen.

The Gloria

Glorious are you, Mystery of Life,
essence of all creation.
You are the symphony of stars and planets.
You are the music of the atoms within us.
You are the dawn on mountain peaks,
the moonlight on evening seas.
Forest and farm, the rush of the city,
everything is embraced in your love.



We re-joice as we sing our gra-tit-ude.

Glorious are you, O Jesus Christ,
Cosmic love in human flesh.
You graced the smallness of time and place
to teach us to dance to the music.
You walk on our seas and heal in our streets.
You make your home in our lives,
revealing that cross and resurrection
are one on the road to freedom.



We re-joice as we sing our gra-tit-ude.

Glorious are you, O Spirit of Truth,
wisdom and breath of our being.
You are the wind that sweeps our senses.
You are the fire that burns in our hearts.
You are the needle of the inner compass,
always pointing to true North,
guiding us on the sacred dance
into the Mystery of Life.



We re-joice as we sing our gra-tit-ude.

Words: Joy Cowley, Music: MCW Bell

The Summary of the Law

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

Let us pause in silence, being aware of God within,
between and beyond us.

Please sit or kneel for private prayer

Together we pray

**Gracious God, give us the wisdom to hold what we
need, grace to let go of those things that we can do
without, and a vision of your breadth, height, and
depth that will challenge our smallness of heart,
and bring us humbly together.**

Priest

Spirit of God hold us, Spirit of God move us, Spirit
of God burn within us, so that we may light up the
world with your love.

The Sentence and Prayer of the Day

"Does anyone have the foggiest idea of what sort of
power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does
no one believe a word of it? The churches are
children playing on the floor with their chemistry
sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday
morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and
velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash
helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and
signal flares; they should lash us to our pews"

Annie Dillard

Together we pray.

**Where is our holy ground? Where is our sacred
space? Where can it be found?
Could it be where grief, failure and despair
abound, and yet we dance?
Mystery of life, lead us. Amen.**

The First Reading

A reading from the second book of Samuel

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19

Hear what the Spirit might be saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

**God your word abiding,
and our footsteps guiding,
gives us joy for ever,
binds us all together.**

**Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by your word imparted~
to the simple hearted.**

**Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living:**

**word of life, supplying~
comfort to the dying.**

**O that we, discerning~
its most holy learning,
God, may love and fear you,
evermore be near you.**

Words Henry William Baker 1821-77

Music: Ravenshaw, melody by W H Monk 1823-89

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Mark, chapter
six beginning at verse fourteen

Shine on our pathways.

Mark 6:14--29

This is the Gospel of Christ.

May we hear wisdom

The Sermon

Reflective Music

Song of the Holy Spirit

Michael CW Bell

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for those far and near, people and places,
powerful and powerless, all for whom we are
concerned

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace

The Peace

Peace be with us all
with justice comes peace

Let us build peace together
and change our world

Please turn and greet those around you with peace

The Offertory Hymn

**We limit not the truth of God
to our poor reach of mind,
to notions of our day and place,
crude partial and confined:
no, let a new and better hope
within our hearts be stirred:
O God grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.**

**Who dares to bind to ones own sense
the oracles of heaven
for all the nations, tongues and climes
and all the ages given?
That universe, how much unknown
that ocean unexplored:
O God grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.**

**Eternal God, incarnate Word
Spirit of flame and dove;
enlarge, expand all living souls
to comprehend your love;
and help us all to seek your will
with wiser powers conferred
O God grant yet more light and truth
to break forth from your Word.**

Words: George Rawson 1807-89 alt.

Music: Ellacombe, melody from "Mainz Gesangbuch", 1833

The Preparation of the Gifts

Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share. May we learn to give
generously, receive graciously and judge not those
who do neither.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Spirit is here.
God's hope is in us

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God

Let us give thanks to the God of peace
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Here today, through bread and wine, we renew our
journey with Jesus and his disciples. We renew our
unity with one another, and with all those who have
gone before us in this place. We renew our
communion with the earth and our interwovenness
with the broken ones of the world.

We take bread, symbol of labour, symbol of life. We
will break the bread because Christ, the source of
life, was broken for the excluded, exploited and
downtrodden.

We take wine, symbol of blood, spilt in war and
conflict; symbol too of new life. We will drink the
wine because Christ, the peace of the world,
overcomes violence.

Now bread and wine are before us, the memory of
our meals, our working, our talking; the story that
shapes us: the grieving and the pain, the oppressor
who lies deep in our own soul, the seeking and the

loving. And we give thanks for all that holds us
together.

Therefore, with the disciples, and with all the faithful
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever
praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna
in the highest.
Bless the One who comes in the power of love.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, in the highest.**

On the night before he died Jesus took bread; when
he had given 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
thanks he gave it to them and said:

*Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood which
brings new life; do this as often as you drink it, to
remember me.*

**Break the bread for freedom. Pour the wine for
justice. Celebrate this meal for all the world –a
meal of faith and hope, God's love, shared among
us.**

Spirit of God you are here, come to us afresh. May
the bread that we eat bind us across the world with
those who can not. May the wine we drink fortify our
resolve to share with those who have not. May the
power of love move us to work with those who know
it not. May the justice of Jesus become a reality that
all people can eat, drink and be sustained by. May
that reality come, and may we be a part of its coming.

United in the power of love with all who stand for
justice, we worship you, O God, in songs of
everlasting praise.

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

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

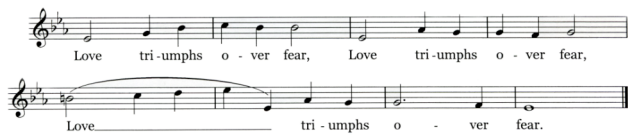
**E to matou Matua i te rangi kia tapu tou Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga. Kia meatia tau e
pai ai ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite ano ki te
rangi. Homai ki a matou aianei he taro ma matou
mo tenei ra. Murua o matou hara, me matou hoki
e muru nei, i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.
Aua hoki matou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

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.

We sing three times:



Music: MCW Bell

The Invitation

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

There is a chalice 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

Benedictus from "Requiem" WA Mozart 1756-91

Prayer after Communion

Filled with a Spirit that calls us and the entire world beyond what we ever thought was possible, we leave this table strengthened with food for the journey and a vision of life as it can be; one diverse family, living in justice and peace. Amen.

Together 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**

Notices

The Blessing

Final Hymn

**For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who in the world their faith in God confessed
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!**

**You were the stranger in the dark of night
with whom they strove to find their one True
Light,
to whom you gave God's blessing ever bright:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**They are the folk who gave with Love Divine,
always in service did their wills incline,
forgetting self, they did with glory shine:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**They followed you, cast out the city's gate
killed by the eyes and guns of human hate,
yet trumpets sound their resurrection fete:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And there will dawn a yet more marvellous day,
the saints with laughter sing and dance and play,
the Clown of Glory tumbles in the way:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**With earth restored, with this our fragile star,
in gladness home from pilgrimage afar,
we find in God a joy that none can mar:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Words William Walsham How 1823-9, adapted by J Cotter
Music: Sine Nomine Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958*

Liturgist from the rear of the Church

Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.
Amen. We go in the hope of Christ.

Organ Voluntary

First Reading: 2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19

A Reading from the second book of Samuel

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

It was told King David, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Pause

Hear what the Spirit might be saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Mark, chapter six beginning at verse fourteen

Shine on our pathways

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Pause

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: May we hear wisdom