

St Matthew-in-the-City

WHAT'S HAPPENING

18TH DECEMBER 2011

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

We hope you enjoy being with us and feel part of what's happening.



Nau Mai, Haere Mai...

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS. This is a place for spirited feisty people, for lovers of beautiful music, for those who feel they don't belong within the walls of conventional religion. It is a place for those who dream of a different tomorrow and are prepared to be labelled heretics in order to get there. Whoever you are, wherever you've come from, whatever you believe...you are welcome here. Please join us for the "sacrament" of morning tea following the service.

This morning we welcome back Rt Rev. John Bluck as our guest preacher.

Parish Notices...

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE Childrens service	7pm
Christmas Eve Music	10pm
Christmas Carol Service	11pm
Midnight Mass	12midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY 8 am and 10am
The church office will be closed from 24th December. Limited office cover will resume on 9th January 2012, and normal hours from 16th January. Emergency contact information will be available via our telephone system.

OUR RECORDER RETIRES... One of the "unseen" jobs in the Parish is that of Parish Recorder. For more than twenty years, Margaret Turnbull has filled this role, counting the collection each week and administering the envelope system for weekly contributions. Aply assisted by her brother John, Margaret has given wonderful service to St Mathews, and on behalf of the Clergy, Staff and Parishioners we want to thank Margaret for all the time and effort she has contributed to the Parish.

BILLBOARD COMMENTS A selection of email responses to the Christmas billboard is available on the back table.

MORNING TEA This morning's morning tea has been kindly donated to the Parish by Sandra Fahey, of Sandra's Catering to mark the Christmas season. We would like to thank Sandra and her team and family for providing us with catered morning teas on two Sundays each month during the year. We also thank Chrisanthi Freeman who has taken on organising the volunteer morning tea roster this year, and all the parishioners who have assisted her with morning teas.

Today will be the last rostered Morning Tea until the beginning of February.

A DAY TRIP NORTH FOR THE INDUCTION OF REVD DENISE KELSALL IN WHANGAREI

Denise's induction service will be held on Saturday 11th February at Christ Church, Whangarei. Exact time TBC.

Places are filling fast for bus transport from St Matthews departing early, arriving in Whangarei for the late morning service followed by lunch, and returning to Auckland late afternoon. Cost will depend on numbers and mode of transport but is likely to be in the range of \$15-30 per person. **If you would like to go, please register your interest this week with Ian or Elspeth in the church office.** We want to finalise this before Christmas as there won't be much time to make bookings etc after the holidays.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP A pot luck lunch will be held after the Wednesday service this week (21st Dec). After this week there will be no Wednesday services until the 1st February.

MYSTERIES OF THE BELL TOWER

REVEALED.... You are cordially invited to visit the Bell tower and see the ringers in action on Christmas Eve from 10.15pm to 11pm, or on New Year's Eve from 11 to 11.45pm. Space is limited, so please let John Dunn 418 3324 or Mike Stone 838-1353 know if you are planning to visit.

Community Notices...

HOW DO WE TACKLE WASTE... Auckland Council is seeking public input on its new Waste Management plan. The aim is to deliver waste services more efficiently, find better ways of recycling and re-using resources and reduce waste to landfills.

Have **your** say (online of course to save paper!) at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/wasteplan

WILL YOU BE AN ANGEL FOR THE CITY MISSION ?? The City Mission's annual Christmas Appeal begins today. Their great need over the next month is volunteer assistance, A couple of hours collecting for the street appeal, selling Angel wings at the Waterfront to raise funds and the Mission profile, or helping in some other way would be hugely appreciated. Please call the Mission on 303-9200 or call in. Thank you !

We Remember in Prayer...

Rose-Christie French, Lynette, Patricia, Brenden Kerrigan, Josie, George, Heather, Nevil, Matthew, Tony Chen, Elena, Lolita Priya, Alastair, Ava Wall, Max, Sarah W, Robert, Heather, Louise, Robina, Alison Jenkins, Hans, Ray Leech, Sylvia McLernon, Sarah, Ngaire, Kevin, Zaylene, Richard, Dot, Lindsay, John, Elisabeth Raphael, Emily, Pam O'Connell, Maura Martins, Peter Roffey, Cathi, Melissa, Joy Milken, Brenda Trim, Sarah A, David W, Gwynneth, Sarah Lee, Shaun, Tony, Brenda, Debra, Frances, Katrina, Zara Hope, Liana Ashby, Debra, Norma Roffey, Kelsey, Claudia, Sophie, Janet, and Alf. Sandra and Jason.

We hold in our prayers all the peoples of Thailand, Turkey, Norway, USA,, Spain, Libya, Syria, Ivory Coast, Japan, Christchurch, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Albania, Australia, Darfur, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

We congratulate Thomas Wang & Hua Wang on their wedding this week.

If you wish to make additions to our prayer list please contact the office or email lan.

St Matthew's Online...

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK? St Matthew-in-the-City is. Go to our homepage and click become a fan. Sermons, new items, upcoming events, photos of those events and the opportunity to comment await you. Join fans from around the globe in our Facebook community.

KEEP INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ONLINE AT WWW.STMATTHEWS.ORG.NZ: there is a wealth of information to be found on our website: parish news, the parish calendar, Sunday's Pew Sheet & What's Happening, sermons, OMG! (our theological e-zine), upcoming events, articles, national and international church news, iGod (our podcasts and videos of sermons), prayers and blessings, links to progressive Christian sites, study resources and much, much more.

FYI...

WHEN IS THE SERVICE OVER? For some it is the dismissal. For others it is after the organ voluntary. We respect both needs and ask that those who need to leave have whatever quiet conversations they like at the back of church remembering others are listening to the Organ Voluntary. Thank you for your consideration

LOW GLUTEN WAFERS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNION We have a supply of Low Gluten Wafers, approved by the Coeliac Society for Communion. If you would prefer to receive the bread this way, please indicate to the Priest by showing a coloured wrist band, which is available from the welcomers at the back of the church. We don't recommend intinction (dipping) for those using these wafers

FOR OUR VISITORS THE TOILET IS DOWN-STAIRS TO THE LEFT AND TO THE LEFT.

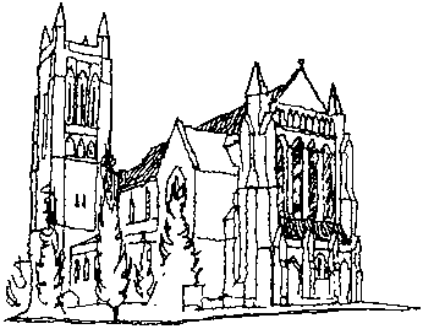
We Thank Those Who Serve...

This Morning's Worship Team: *Priest on Duty* Glynn Cardy / *Preacher* John Bluck / *Liturgical Deacon* Linda Murphy / *Crucifer* N/A / *Server* Vee Linfoot / *Thurifer* N/A / *Acolytes* N/A / *Chalice and Elements* Irene Grove, David Grove / *Liturgist* Pedro Portella / *Intercessor* Steve Anderson / *Welcoming & Offertory* Fiona Jackson, John Railton / *Reader* David Grove, Lynette Harrison / *Organist* Michael Bell / *Music Ensemble* Susan Ewart, Therese Turnock, Dmitry Rusakov, Matt Pestle / *Flowers* Floral Designs by iris / *Linen* Elena Philp / *Bread* Puppe Wall / *Sound* Harry Hepple / *Morning Tea* Morning Catered

Worship team for December 25th *Priest on Duty* Glynn Cardy / *Preacher* Clay Nelson / *Liturgical Deacon* Denise Kelsall / *Crucifer* N/A / *Server* Judith Faithfull / *Thurifer* N/A / *Acolytes* N/A / *Chalice and Elements* Thea Braddock, Irene Grove, David Grove, TBC / *Liturgist* Anna Cardy / *Intercessor* Lynette Harrison / *Welcoming & Offertory* Fiona Jackson, John Railton / *Reader* Irene Grove, Robert Somerville / *Organist* Michael Bell / *Music Ensemble* Victoria Chammanee, Susan Ewart, Sasha Lockley, Therese Turnock, Lachlan Craig, Dmitry Rusakov, Barry Mora, Matt Pestle, Russell Walmsley / *Flowers* Floral Designs by iris / *Linen* Elena Philp, Judith Faithfull / *Bread* Puppe Wall / *Sound* Harry Hepple / *Morning Tea* None

If You Need to Contact Us

Vicar	Rev. Glynn Cardy	021 545 969	DDI 281 4890	glynn@stmatthews.org.nz
Priest Associate	Rev. Clay Nelson	021 151 1122	281 4894	clay@stmatthews.org.nz
Staff:				
Administration Manager	Ian Pallas		281 4891	ian@stmatthews.org.nz
Events Manager	Geno Sisneros		281 4892	geno@stmatthews.org.nz
Office Administration	Elspeth Lamb		281 4893	elspeth@stmatthews.org.nz
Vestry Leadership:				
Vicar's Warden	Judith Faithfull	021 216 7456		judithfaithfull@xtra.co.nz
People's Warden	Gavin Rennie	021 300 606 or 520 2491		gavinrennie@xtra.co.nz
Office Phone Numbers:	09 379 0625 / 377 9798	or use Direct Dial as above	Facsimile: 09 303 1302	



Saint Matthew in the City

4th Sunday in Advent

18th December 2011

Processional Hymn

**Come, thou, Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall,
such grace befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed
the Saviour, now to man displayed.**

**O equal to the Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night distinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

*Words: St Ambrose c. 340-97,
tr. J M Neale 1818-66*

*Music: Puer Nobis Nascitur,
Melody adapted by M Praetorius 1571-1621*

Source TiS 194

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Liturgist

There are many people suffering in our world. They cry out for help. Yet we are bound by our own concerns and suffering. We are bound too by our lack of vision. 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.

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

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.

Together we pray

**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.**

Priest:

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

Amen.

Sentence and Prayer for the Day

'For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Luke 1:37

Together we pray

**God faithful and true,
make us eager with expectation,
as we look for the fulfilment of your promise
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**

Please sit for the sung Magnificat

The Magnificat

Opening chorus from "Magnificat Antiquitatis"
Michael CW Bell

The First Reading

A reading from the second book of Samuel

2 Sam 7:1-11,16

Let us wait

All: And know that God is here

Gradual Hymn

**Join hands in the Spirit,
the one holy name;
you are love, and we your children,
one and the same.
All glory to the Spirit,
all praise to your name,
for your love unites us
in peace once again.**

**Join minds in the Spirit,
the one source of life,
all are born in your image,
sparks of your light.
Oh joy that you will call us
to love and forgive,
to trust beyond fear,
that in death we may live.**

**Join hearts in the Spirit,
the one holy peace,
your love is our union,
your touch our release.
Oh great heart! embracing
every creed, every race,
in gratitude we cry
at the gift of your grace.**

*Words: Radha Wardrop
Music: Radha Wardrop, arr., Ian Render*

Source: AA 82

Gospel Reading:

The Holy Gospel according to Luke , chapter one
beginning at verse twenty-six.

Shine on our pathways.

Luke 1:26-38

This is the Gospel of Christ
May we hear wisdom.

The Sermon

Reflective Music

*'Jesus bleibet meine Freude' from Cantata BWV 147
J S Bach 1685-1750*

The Prayers of the People

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

The Peace

We commit ourselves to live in peace as we work for it
To kindle peace within, between and beyond us

For the peace of Jesus is an active peace
Building, bridging and always dreaming

We share a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

**The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love:
Jehovah, great I AM
by earth and heaven confessed!
I bow and bless the sacred name
for ever blest.**

**The God of Abraham praise,
whose all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my happy days
in all my ways.
He calls a worm his friend,
he calls himself my God;
and he shall save me to the end
through Jesus' blood.**

**He by himself hath sworn,
I on his oath depend:
I shall, on eagles' wings upborne,
to heaven ascend;
I shall behold his face,
I shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.**

**The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing:
and holy, holy, holy, cry,
almighty King.
Who was and is the same,
and evermore shall be;
Jehovah, Father, great I AM,
we worship thee.**

**Before the Saviour's face
the ransomed nations bow;
o'erwhelmed at his almighty grace,
for ever new:
he shows his prints of love,
they kindle to a flame,
and sound through all the worlds above
the slaughtered Lamb.**

**The whole triumphant host
gives thanks to God on high:
Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!
they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God, and mine!
I join the heavenly lays;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.**

*Words: Thomas Olivers 1725-99
Music: Leoni, Hebrew Synagogue Melody
Transcribed by Meyer Lyon 1751-97*

Source: TiS 125

The Great Thanksgiving

(In free time)

Cantor *All*

Hope is a - mong us. We are God's light.

Cantor *All*

Shine then with free - dom into all the cor-ners of the world.

Cantor *All*

Lest fear overcome the bril-liance of life and light and lib - er - ty.

From the beginning, life has been shaped by despair, struggle, and triumph. Oppressive forces have time and again tried to destroy the hope of the marginalized and vulnerable. The forces of wealth and privilege, armies and theology, have beaten down upon the poor. Yet hope is never extinguished. When all seems lost the embers stir back into life, and the light of justice ignites again. For this we give deep and heartfelt thanks.

Shortly before Jesus died he gathered around him his closest friends... women and men who had shared in his despair, struggles, and triumphs. They met in a small upstairs room. The forces of power and self-interest were closing in. All their excitement, anticipation, and hopes were about to be put to death on a cross. In this moment Jesus took bread and wine, and likened it to his own life, broken and poured out for others.

In doing so he invited them and us to share in the brokenness of our world, and to share too in the healing of our world through self-giving love. In bread broken and wine poured out he initiated a new community. An upside-down community which believes that loving is more important than winning, doing what is right is more important than doing what is safe, and setting people free is more important than trying to control their lives. It is a community marked by justice and hope.

Therefore, with all who have struggled, dreamed, despaired, and triumphed we sing:

All

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

(organ)

Blaze, jus - tice blaze. Blest is Je - sus who

lit up our world, who lit up our world. Ho - san - na, ho -

-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 thanks 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.

All

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' - ry where.

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.

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

All

Stay with me, re - main here with me,

watch and pray, watch and pray.

The Invitation

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

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

Ave Maria (opus 2. No. 2)

Sir Edward Elgar 1857-1934

How beautiful upon the mountains

John Stainer 1840-1901

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

You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.

Reproduced with permission under license #A19675, LicenSingOnline

Together we pray

**You are present, Spirit of God,
within us, your dwelling place and home.
This place is one where
All darkness is penetrated by your light,
All troubles calmed by your peace,
All evil redeemed by your love,
and all pain held within your hope. Amen.**

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

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!***

**'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations Laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!***

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!***

**of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'most highly favoured lady'. *Gloria!***

*Basque Carol, paraphrased
by Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924
Music: Gabriel's Message, Basque trad.
arr. Charles Edgar Pettman 1866-1943*

Source: TiS 302

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 Christ.

Organ Voluntary

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’

Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Let us wait

All: And know that God is here

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter one beginning at verse twenty-six.

All: Shine on our pathways.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Pause

This is the Gospel of Christ

All: May we hear wisdom.