

Nau mai, haere mai. Our liturgy begins on page 404 of
A New Zealand Prayer Book / He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

Our choir and Musical Director are having a well-deserved break.
Thanks to Amanda, Sarah & Kerry who are leading our music today.

Processional Hymn: *Common Praise* 89 –
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Collect:

Jesus, light of the world,
let your bright star stand over the place
where the poor have to live;
lead our sages to wisdom
and our rulers to reverence.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice O God:
and your righteousness to a king's son,
that he may judge your people rightly:
and uphold the poor with justice.

Let the mountains bring forth peace for the people:
and the hills prosperity with justice.

May the king defend the cause of the poor among the people:
save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun endures:
as long as the moon from age to age.

May he come down like rain upon the grass:
like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace till the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute:
the kings of Sheba and Seba bring their gifts.

May all kings fall prostrate before him:
and all nations render him service.

He shall deliver the needy when they cry:
and the poor who have no helper.

He shall have pity on the weak and the needy:
and save the lives of the poor.

He shall rescue them from oppression and violence:
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel Hymn: *Common Praise* 91 – We three kings of Orient are

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Offertory Hymn: *The first nowell*

1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. They lookèd up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Nowell, ...*

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Nowell, ...*

4 This star drew nigh to the north-west:
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Nowell, ...*

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Nowell, ...*

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought. *Nowell, ...*

Prayer After Communion

God of glory,
you nourish us with bread from heaven.

**Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that through us your light may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: *Common Praise* 83 –

As with gladness men of old

- ***Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to receive only the bread.***
- ***We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine. This makes it safer for us all.***
- ***Gluten free wafers are available from the person administering the bread at 10am. If needed at 8am please let us know before the service starts.***

While the Acting Dean and Priest Associate are on leave ... for any pastoral emergency, please contact: The Reverend Dorothy Brooker: 027-243-1307

The Cathedral office reopens on the 12th of January

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A thought from today's sermon

"I am your way," Jesus tells us.

"I am your path and your destination.

I'm in the star you follow, in the questions you ask,
in the scriptures you read, in the sacraments you share,
in the mistakes you make, in the people around you,
and in your dreams and hopes.

I'm there in that deep-felt desire that beckons you on. Trust in me."

