

St Nicholas' Anglican Church, Waverley
1957 – 2022



Service of Thanksgiving and Secularisation
29th May 2022

Introduction:

Welcome to you all, and especially to Bishop Steven and to former Vicars of the Otago Peninsula Parish, the Reverend Cushla McMillan and the Reverend Joanna Fielding. We also extend a warm welcome to those who are joining us via the live-stream video link. Thank you for being here with us today.

Over the years, the St Nicholas' congregation has developed close ecumenical links with both the St Philip's Presbyterian Church congregation from "round the corner" in Belford Street, and the members of Dunedin South Roman Catholic Parish who were formerly the St Alphonsus' congregation. Welcome to our friends from our neighbouring faith communities in Waverley.

We acknowledge and honour all those - clergy and lay people – who have gone before us in building up our parish and its faith communities, and in particular today, St Nicholas' Church, over so many years. We remember them with gratitude as we now build on their legacy to us and shape the parish to meet the challenges of the future.

The Parish history, "Otago Peninsula Saints" written by Eileen Wallis has the following information: In Waverley the first Anglican service is recorded in 1951 in the Ratepayers' Hall. St Nicholas' Church was opened in 1957, with the Hall dedicated in 1969.

Our parish has a name for resilience, self-sufficiency, and a "can do" attitude so that when at times we are without permanent clergy, we have the resources, the willingness, and the experience to sustain the life of the parish, including ensuring worship is maintained to a high standard, administrative systems continue, and pastoral care and outreach are upheld – the local ministry established at St Nicholas' in the Reverend Cushla McMillan's incumbency (alongside that at St Aidan's) has been at the core of the life of St Nicholas'.

What else has been at the heart of the St Nicholas' faith community over these years? Our people here have been outward looking, participating in social justice projects and initiatives, raising awareness of environmental issues, supporting overseas missions and fund raising for them, joining in Diocesan-wide events and activities, supporting special services in other Dunedin parishes, and offering a special outreach to young families in Waverley through the Thursday morning Music Playgroup. They have also looked inward, offering faithful yet often creative Anglican worship Sunday after Sunday, and as a close-knit faith community, they have cared for each other, providing pastoral care to those in need both within the St Nicholas' congregation, and our wider parish family as well as in the community around us.

We have received warm greetings from many who have previously been associated with St Nicholas' Church. The Reverend Derek Lightbourne, Vicar 1987 – 1995, writes: *"Thank you for the opportunity to send a message to St Nicholas' folk - one of sadness, and yet also of blessings and thanksgiving. When I came to the parish, there was the strong impact of Archdeacon Southward especially at St Nicholas'. His pastoral ministry surely enabled the*

growth of the church, and his legacy lived on in many people's lives. I understand this ministry had extended to his arriving at people's homes in late afternoon, just in time for a whisky.

My memories of St Nicholas' are the number of folk who took a major part in its life and worship. The parish history is aptly named 'Otago Peninsula Saints' and surely to recall the Greets, Amsdens, Marshs, Laings, Jacombs, Caswells, Stapletons, Annette Gilchrist, Paul Wheeler (on the organ), and others forgive me for not naming.

Worship was a vital part of St Nicholas' life. There were the Patronal Festivals, rivalling attendances near Christmas. Taize theme services were also a feature, and well attended. Children's and youth involvement included altar serving. Who can remember the times when heavy rain rendered the worship inaudible? Alan Petrie can!

Finally, the sadness of today records a church which was an integral strength in the parish comprising four churches (then). Thanks be to God for all who ministered and received ministry.

Following this service, a warm welcome is extended to everyone to morning-tea in the hall. There you will have the opportunity to share St Nicholas' reminiscences in a more informal setting.

Processional Hymn: "Lift high the cross."

Words Shirley Murray, Tune Crucifer

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
'til all the world, adore his glorious name.***

**Jesus, you wept to see our human strife;
Teach us compassion for each human life.
*Lift high***

**Peace was your plea and peace your loving theme;
Let peace be our passport, peace a living dream.
*Lift high...***

**Great is the cost of walking on this road,
To follow and suffer with the Son of God.
*Lift High...***

**Worlds to be born and children yet to be
Come, take up this song into eternity.
*Lift high..***

Welcome: Bishop Steven

Call to Worship: Liturgist

(All Standing)

E te whanau a te Karaiti, welcome to this holy table. Welcome to you, for we are Christ's body, Christ's work in the world. Welcome to you whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world. Rejoice and be glad. Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.

Praise and glory to Christ, God's new beginning for humanity, making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

Love and loyalty to Christ, who gives us the gospel. Praise to Christ who calls us to holiness.

Remain standing as we sing, "Be still "

Words and music: David Evans

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Come bow before him now with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.

No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Litany of Thanksgiving (Liturgist)

Blessed be the name of God, whose Word has long been proclaimed within this place.

We give you thanks, O God.

As generations have prayed their prayers and sung your praises here, your Spirit has blessed countless worshippers.

We give you thanks, O God.

We have celebrated the Eucharist and been nurtured by it for our journey in faith.
We give you thanks, O God.

We have rejoiced here, as believers have confessed faith in Christ.
We give you thanks, O God.

We have baptised our children and mourned our dead.
We give you thanks, O God.

As new families have been created through marriage, we, our parents, and our children have vowed in this place to love, honour, and cherish always.
We give you thanks, O God.

From within the walls of this church many have gone out to serve you in the world.
We give you thanks, O God.

As we let go of this house of prayer we go further in this journey of faith,
We give you thanks, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray.

Hear these words of certainty from St Paul.

Neither death, nor life, nor things present nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear these words of compassion from the psalmist.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff, they comfort me.

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do as members of Christ's body. (Silence.)

In God there is forgiveness.

Loving and all-seeing God, forgive us where we have failed to support one another, and to be what we claim to be. Forgive us where we have failed to serve you, and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to yours, we ask your pardon.

God forgives you. Be at peace.

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection, reconciliation for all the human race.

We shall be one in Christ, one in our life together.

Praise God who has created us. Praise God who has accepted us, praise God who sends us into the world.

The Readings

Acts 1: 1 – 11. (The Rev. Mary Greet)

Ephesians 1: 15 – 23. (Anne Stratford)

(After each reading:)

Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: “Nicholas, Nicholas”

Words by Tanya Connelly; Tune: Epiphany

**Nicholas, Nicholas, Bishop on horseback,
Riding the streets in your mantle of red,
Bags full of gold for the poor and the needy,
Bread for the hungry who cry to be fed.**

**Nicholas, Nicholas, guardian of sailors,
Out in a storm in a little white boat,
Calming the weather like Jesus before you.
Asking God’s blessing on all that’s afloat!**

**Nicholas, Nicholas, champion of prisoners,
Walking the jail with a silvery key,
Bringing new life to the angry and troubled,
Opening their shackles and setting them free.**

**Nicholas, Nicholas, father of churches,
Saint of our church on the windy, green hill,
Past are your miracles made for God’s glory,
Bishop of Myra, we honour you still.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 24: 44 – 53 (The Rev. Dr Tony Martin)
(All standing)

The Holy Gospel according to

Praise and glory to God

(After the Gospel:)

This is the Gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon: Bishop Steven.

Affirmation of Faith (All Standing)

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

You are our God. We worship you.

The prayers of the people (The Rev. Peter Stapleton)

(Leader) Let us pray.

Eternal God,

God of the present time, of ages past and of the ages to come, may we worship you.

Loving God,

God of the compassionate act, and of selfless caring, may we welcome you.

God of the Church,

Who brings us together to serve, may we respond to you.

God, whose will is revealed in Jesus Christ,

**Who proclaimed the just and sharing way, who accepted the unaccepted, and whose
unswerving love took him to the cross, may we glorify you.**

We give thanks for all those who contributed to the life of St Nicholas' over the past 68 years.

For clergy and lay ministers, especially the foundational ministry of Archdeacon Walter Southward and his wife Marjorie.

For the loving service of all who participated in shared ministry.

For those who maintained the buildings and gardens and kept our church so beautiful.

For those who provided the joyful music that enlivened our worship,

For those who brought tasty and tempting food for morning-teas, church dinners, meetings and other gatherings.

For those who taught our children and for the leaders of Christian education groups.

For the welcomers, and the sidesmen and women.

We remember those who have served you faithfully at St Nicholas', but who are no longer with us, remembering them in our hearts, or I invite you to name them aloud at this time.

(Pause)

For all those who have served you in this place

We give thanks and praise.

May we move on in faith

When the chosen people left the land of Egypt for the uncertainty of the wilderness,

You, O God went with them. You inspired the people and showed them the way to the promised land. Be with us now, as we move on.

When the prophets knew for certain that old values and traditions would no longer serve your purpose, nor bring your realm closer,

You, O God showed the doubters a new way and revealed fresh opportunities to them. Ever-faithful God, be with us now as we move on.

We move on to serve you in partnership with the people of St Michael's, to strive for justice and peace in our local community and throughout the world.

Be with us now as we move on with new partners to build a church and a world united in Christ.

We offer these our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour.

Amen.

Ministry of the Sacrament

The Peace

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.
Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

Offertory Hymn: "In this familiar place."

Words and Music Colin Gibson

In this familiar place I know the mystery of your grace

***For the love that I receive, for the truth that I believe,
I praise and thank you for this here and now.***

**In halting song and word the music of your voice is heard.
*For the love..***

**Among these friends of mine I taste the company divine.
*For the love...***

**Within this narrow sphere I learn that you are everywhere.
*For the love...***

The Preparation of the Gifts

The Great Thanksgiving

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed.
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 the joy of our salvation,
God of the universe,
to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light';

there was light.
Your light shines on in our darkness.
For you the earth has brought forth life
in all its forms.

You have created us
to hear your Word,
to do your will
and to be fulfilled in your love.
It is right to thank you.
You sent your Son to be for us
the way we need to follow
and the truth we need to know.

You sent your Son to give his life
to release us from our sin.
His cross has taken our guilt away.

You send your Holy Spirit
to strengthen and to guide,
to warn and to revive your Church.
Therefore, with all your witnesses
who surround us on every side,
countless as heaven's stars,
we praise you for our creation
and our calling,
with loving and with joyful hearts:

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just,
glory and goodness come from you.
Glory to you most high and gracious God.**
Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son,
who washed his disciples' feet.
'I am among you,' he said, 'as one who serves.'

On that night before he died
he took bread and gave 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,
and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:

Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you, shed for all,
to forgive sin;
do this to remember me.
Therefore with this bread and wine
we recall your goodness to us.

**God of the past and present,
we your people remember your Son.
We thank you for his cross and rising again,
we take courage from his ascension;
we look for his coming in glory
and in him we give ourselves to you.**
Send your Holy Spirit,
that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share his cup
draw strength from the one true vine.

**Called to follow Christ,
help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer,
give us hope in our calling.**

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

**Praise, glory and love be yours,
this and every day,
from us and all people,
here and everywhere. Amen.**

As Christ teaches us, 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 forever. Amen.

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross,
Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.
Christ is risen from the dead.

Come God's people,
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

(We remain seated to sing the hymn after Communion.)

"Dear Lord and Father of mankind"

Words J.G. Whittier, Tune Repton

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise, in deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee, rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love, interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace, the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm.**

Prayer After Communion

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**Therefore we offer all that we are
and all that we shall become.**

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

Recessional Hymn: Rejoice in God's saints.

Words F Pratt Green, Tune Laudate Dominum

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days:

A world without saints forgets how to praise.

Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,

Their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.

Some march with events to turn them God's way;

Some need to withdraw the better to pray;

Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:

Our world is their parish, their purpose is God.

Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,

Who bear someone's cross or shoulder their own;

They shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares;

What patience in caring, what courage is theirs.

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days;

A world without saints forgets how to praise.

In loving, in living, they prove it is true –

The way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

Words of Secularisation (Bishop Steven)

We who are gathered here know that this building, which has been consecrated and set apart for the ministry of God's holy Word and Sacraments, will no longer be used in this way, but will be used for other purposes.

To many of you this building has been hallowed by cherished memories, and we know that some will suffer a sense of loss.

We pray that they will be comforted by the knowledge that the presence of God is not tied to any place or building.

The altar will be removed and protected from desecration.

It is the intention of the Diocese that the congregation which worshiped here will not be deprived of the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

I will now read the Declaration of Secularisation.

Final Blessing and Dismissal (Bishop Steven)

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Removal of Symbolic Items from the Church

- St Nicholas' Banner
- Altar Bible
- Chalice and Paten
- St Nicholas' Hymn Folder
- Candlesticks

Place a cloth over the altar.

