



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's

Mid - Week Communion Service

The Gathering

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Comfortable Words

Here the words of comfort our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him:
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11.28

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3.16

Hear what St Paul says: This saying is true and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ
Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
1 Timothy 1.15

Hear what St John says: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ
the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.
1 John 2.1-2

The Confession

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen**

The Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest: and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God heavenly King: almighty God and Father,
we worship you we give you thanks:
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father: Lord God Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One: you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

After the epistle we say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the Gospel we say:

Hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Glory to you O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

The Reflection

Each week we will hear from a variety of reputable and orthodox teachers from centuries past. Extracts will be read to us from sermons, hymns, theological treatises, Biblical commentaries, letters, prayers and poems ... to deepen our faith. This should remind us that all scripture is God breathed and that it's truths and the lessons learnt from them, through the ages, are still useful for us today.



This week we hear a reflection from Gregory of Nyssa, based on John 17.1-11. Gregory was one of the Cappadocian Fathers. Born in 335 in Turkey. He had a famous elder brother, Basil, who was also a Bishop, and a sister, Macrina, who was a much loved Deaconess. The family were raised in the Christian faith and had fled persecution because of it a generation earlier from Roman Emperor Maximinus II, when all their worldly goods were confiscated. Gregory was part of the Council of Nicea making a significant contribution to the Nicene Creed, and the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Nicene Creed

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death
and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

We pray for the Church ...
(*and so we pray*)

**Strengthen our bishops and all your Church in the service of Christ,
that those who confess your name may be united in your truth,
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.**

In you O Lord
do we put our trust.

We pray for the World ...
(*and so we pray*)

**Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen;
give wisdom to all in authority;
and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace;
that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.**

In you O Lord
do we put our trust.

We pray for our Community ...
(*and so we pray*)

**Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours,
that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

In you O Lord
do we put our trust.

We pray for those in special need ...
(*and so we pray*)

**Comfort and heals all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
give them courage and hope in their troubles;
and bring them the joy of your salvation.**

In you O Lord
do we put our trust.

We remember those who have died and pray for the bereaved ...
(*and so we pray*)

**Remembering all who have gone before us in faith, and in communion with all the
saints, we commit ourselves, one for another and our whole life to Christ our God;**

to you O Lord.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross. On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

'Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

With joy and faith let us pray as Christ our risen Saviour has taught us:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the bread

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

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in the one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*As we make our spiritual communion together please listen to 'Alleluia, sing to Jesus!'.
Written by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898); performed by the Choral Scholars of St
Martin-in-the-Fields, from their homes. RSCM*

Prayer after Communion

We say together

**Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Dismissal

Blessing

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia
In the name of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia.

Thank you for joining us today.