

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



## Welcome to this Family Communion Service

### The Gathering

#### Welcome & Notices

#### Opening Prayer

Lord, we gather and we pause to think about your world: such a beautiful place.  
We want everything to be perfect, but we accept it is far from that.  
So, bring us together to learn from you how to be your presence in the world,  
how to create a right environment and be fruitful for you in all we do.  
Keep us always watchful and prayerful.  
**Amen.**

#### Songs    Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name  
(x2)

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love

Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

He is Lord, Lord of all,

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

When he shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh, may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless, I stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all  
(x2)

Songwriters: Eric Liljero / Jonas Myrin / Reuben Morgan / Edward Mote / William Batchelder Bradbury  
Performed by Lindsey Mackie

### Great are You Lord

You give life, You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore  
Every heart that is broken  
Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only

(repeat from top)

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only

All the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing  
Great are You, Lord  
(x3)

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only  
(x2)

Great are you Lord  
(x3)

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: David Leonard / Jason Ingram / Leslie Jordan, Great Are You Lord lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC - Performed by Lindsey Mackie

### Summary of the law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: the first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandments greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

### Confession

*After a period of reflection*

Lord, I confess to you this morning  
that I'm not very patient with the weeds in my life.  
I try to yank them out, without thinking of any harm that may cause,  
to me or others.

Sometimes, I'm so frightened that those tangles will overcome me  
that I try to ignore them, pretending they're not there.

Please forgive me, Lord,  
and help me to trust you to show me your way.  
Amen.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### Collect

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see,  
And serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

Reading Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43 ... read to us by Margriet Wells

**24** Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. **26** When the wheat sprouted and formed ears, then the weeds also appeared.

**27** 'The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?"

**28** "An enemy did this," he replied.

'The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?"

**29** "No," he answered, "because while you are pulling up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: first collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

**36** Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.'



**37** He answered, 'The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, **39** and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

**40** 'As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. **42** They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Sermon. Nigel Lowe is opening God's Word for us today

### Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

Intercessions      And you respond - **Lead us into your kingdom.**

Song      Be Still my Soul

Be still, my soul: The Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: Thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Thru thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: Thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

In you I rest, in you I found my hope  
In you I trust, you never let me go  
I place my life within your hands alone  
Be still my soul

Be still, my soul: The hour is hastened on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: When change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.  
In you I rest, in you I found my hope  
In you I trust, you never let me go  
I place my life within your hands alone  
Be still my soul  
(x2)

Be still my soul  
(x3)

Written by: JEAN SIBELIUS, K VON SCHLEGEL, Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Lyrics Licensed & Provided  
by [LyricFind](#) - Performed by Lindsey Mackie

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

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

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

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

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

*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.*

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever  
**Amen.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

**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

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*We are invited to make a spiritual communion with God who comes to meet us where we are. As we make our spiritual communion together please listen to 'Your Grace is enough'*

#### Prayer after communion

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water; refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And we say together ...

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

## The Dismissal

Song      King of Kings

In the darkness, we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died

*Praise the Father, praise the Son...*

And the morning that You rose  
All of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe

For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint

By His blood and in His name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the blood of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me, ohh

*Praise the Father, praise the Son...*

Praise forever to the King of Kings

Performed by Lindsey Mackie

Songwriters: Jason Ingram / Brooke Ligertwood / Scott Ligertwood, King of Kings lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Capitol Christian Music Group

### Final Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord our God  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Thank you for joining us today.

### Note

To contact the church please email [office@stokepogeschurch.org](mailto:office@stokepogeschurch.org) or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

# Going Deeper

## **Bible Notes: Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43**

God's reign has enemies. The matter is explored in another parable about sowing. If there are enemies trying to undo the work God is doing through Matthew's community, how should the conflict be handled? The answer is that it will be sorted by God's judgement at the end times; for the present the conflict will continue. Even within Matthew's community some who look like the good strong wheat from which the one bread is fashioned, will turn out to be something else entirely. But the community is not to start excluding people. It is to be inclusive, so that no mistakes are made and no wheat thrown away with the weeds.

That is one reading of the parable. Another asks with whom Matthew's community would identify. Certainly not the landowner; Matthew's community are the humble and meek, not the rich and powerful. Perhaps they would identify with the enemy, seeking to undermine the rule of the Romanised, powerful landlords by spiking their crops. If so, the message is that Matthew's community is safe for the time being, because powerful leaders won't risk the cost of rooting it out. They have too much at stake.

Matthew clearly opts for the first reading. There may have been people in his community who would opt for the second. Matthew, in any case, argues that popular understandings of Jesus' teaching should differ from those of the disciples. There is a strong thread of 'secret teaching' in this Gospel, understood only by those to whom Jesus or God chooses to reveal it. Here that teaching emphasises the conflict between the reign of God and the regime of the devil, which, even though the present is a time of tribulation, will end with God's victory.

## **Questions for Reflection**



- What do you see in this image?
- Where do you see 'weeds' and 'wheat' growing together in the world?
- How might God be calling you to cope with the tensions this causes?

### **Live your faith**

Offer to do some weeding in a friend's/elderly neighbour's/the church's garden (within current social distancing guidelines). Make each weed you pull up part of your prayer that God will help you embrace the wheat in your life, and reject weeds.

### **A personal prayer**

The field is the world. Lord, I live in a tiny patch of your world but it is still my field to serve you. I pray that I will give my time and gifts to you and yours in whatever way I can. Your kingdom come, O Lord. Amen.

Name .....

## Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a story to help us live in an imperfect world.



## Activity time



Can you draw what we would use to harvest wheat in the fields today?

## ROOTS children's Sheet

19-25 July 2020



Find your way through the field without treading on the wheat.



Use the clues to complete the four words which make a quote from the Bible passage.

---	Song from the film <i>Frozen</i> '---- it go'
----	Bo + th
----	Get bigger
-----	gthotere = Unscramble the letters

## Family time

**Talk** In what ways can we spread good seed in the world?

**Do** Watch an episode of Tractor Ted called 'Summertime'. Discuss what would have been different in the time that the Bible was written.

**Pray** Dear Jesus, help me stand strong; strong when I am scared, strong when I face decisions, strong when I am excited. Amen.

