

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Welcome to this Family Communion Service

The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

We gather here, Lord, ready to focus totally on you.

Help us to be brave enough, like Peter, to ask the questions that we would like to ask, and open enough to hear your answer.

In our worship today, speak to us, Lord.

We are listening.

Amen.

Songs

O praise ye the Lord!

Praise Him in the height;
rejoice in His word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore Him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before Him,
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!

Praise Him upon earth,
in tuneful accord,

ye sons of new birth;
praise Him who hath brought you
His grace from above,
praise Him who hath taught you
to sing of His love.

O praise ye the Lord!
All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord
re-echo around;
loud organs, His glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story
of what He hath done.

O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
to Him be outpoured
all ages along!
For love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord!
Amen! Amen!

Lyrics; H.W. Baker (1821-1877); Tune: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918); From Music for Faith and Worship,
part of the Collegium Regale Network

Lord, I come before Your throne of grace

I find rest in Your presence,
And fullness of Joy
In worship and wonder,
I behold Your face
Singing what a faithful God have I

What a faithful God have I
What a faithful God
What a faithful God have I
Faithful in every way

Lord of mercy, You have heard my cry
Through the storm You're the beacon
My song in the night
In the shelter of Your wings
Hear my heart's reply,
Singing what a faithful God have I

What a faithful God have I
What a faithful God

What a faithful God have I
Faithful in every way

Lord, all sovereign
Granting peace from heaven
Let me comfort those who suffer
With the comfort You have given
I will tell of Your great love
For as long as I live
Singing what a faithful God have I

What a faithful God have I
What a faithful God
What a faithful God have I
Faithful in every way

What a faithful God have I
What a faithful God
What a faithful God have I
Faithful in every way

Written by Dawn & Robert Critchley; Performed by Stoneleigh Worship Band; Stoneleigh International Bible Week –
My First Love, 1996 Integrity Music

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, sometimes we look as though we are listening to others.

We may even make all the right noises!

But we confess that our attention is often anywhere but where it is supposed to be.

Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.

Sometimes we are too distracted by our own concerns.

We care only for ourselves,

and listen only to those who say what we want to hear.

Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.

Sometimes we don't listen to people

because we don't like them,

or because they are different from us.

**Sometimes we have bad or unhelpful thoughts.
Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities.**

**Sometimes we don't listen to you, Lord,
because we are too busy,
or a bit frightened about what you might say to us.
Forgive us, Lord, for missed opportunities. 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

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us
patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading Matthew 15.10-28 read by Pam Blewitt

10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. **11** What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.' **12** Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?' **13** He replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. **14** Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.'

15 Peter said, 'Explain the parable to us.' **16** 'Are you still so dull?' Jesus asked them. **17** 'Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? **18** But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. **19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. **20** These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.'

21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. **22** A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.' **23** Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.' **24** He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.' **25** The woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said. **26** He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.' **27** 'Yes it is, Lord,' she said. 'Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.' **28** Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Sermon. Natasha 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 written and said by Nigel Lowe

Lord hear us ... **Lord graciously hear us.**

Song

O perfect love, O perfect sacrifice,
Fountain of life poured out for me.
What heights and depths of heaven's mercy,
The faithfulness that I believe.
And to whom shall I run?
And in whom shall I hide?
Only You hold the truth I desire.
O perfect love, my prayer shall ever be
To be found in Jesus.

O perfect love, O perfect mystery,
You were condemned, but I go free.
What truth to know that I can rest upon:
Your perfect love has covered me.
And what can this heart know?
And what can this heart tell?
But of grace that has rescued me.
O perfect love,
My prayer shall ever be
To be found in Jesus.

O perfect love, forever I shall sing
Of heaven's gates flung wide for me.
Where fear of death and tears of
hopelessness

Are swallowed up in victory.
And what praise shall be sung
Still to the Holy One;
To the Saviour, Redeemer and King.
O perfect love,
My song shall ever be:
'I am found in Jesus.'

And what praise shall be sung
Still to the Holy One;
To the Saviour, Redeemer and King.
O perfect love,
My song shall ever be:
"I am found in Jesus."
'I am found in Jesus.'
'I am found in Jesus.'

Written and performed by Neil Bennetts; From the album "Everything we're living for"; Trinity Publishing 01.07.2005

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
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 or join in with 'O let the Son of God enfold you'

O let the Son of God enfold you

With His Spirit and His love

Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul

O let Him have the things that hold you

And His Spirit like a dove

Will descend upon your life and make you whole

Jesus, O Jesus

Come and fill your lambs

Jesus, O Jesus

Come and fill your lambs

O come and sing this song with gladness

As your hearts are filled with joy

Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name

O give Him all your tears of sadness

Give Him all your years of pain

And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

Jesus, O Jesus

Come and fill your lambs

Jesus, O Jesus

Come and fill your lambs

Written by John Wimber; From: Divine Hymns. The Worship Collection (Vol 03); Published by Vineyard Publishing.

Prayer after communion

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through 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 Because He lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive,
He lived and died, to buy my pardon
An empty grave, is there to prove my Saviour lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives

How sweet to hold, a new born baby
And feel the pride, and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He lives

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives

And then one day, I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives

Khuda naee apna baeta bheja
Pyar shifa aur muafi ko
Wooh raha aur jaan dee maeray liyeah
Aik khali kabar saboot hai kae
Wooh zinda hai

Wooh zinda hai, mujhe koi fiqar naheen
Wooh zinda hai kio dar naheen
Maen janta hoon, wooh maera shafi hai
Kah zindagi ka maqsad hai
Ka wooh zinda hai

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know, He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives
And life is worth the living just because He lives!

Written by William J. Gaither and Gloria Gaither; Performed by "Voice for Jesus" from the CD "Serving" released March 10, 2016

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 or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

Going Deeper

Bible Notes

The Pharisees sometimes define themselves by what they're not rather than what they are – drawing lines around who's 'in' and who's 'out'. Their offence at Jesus' words stops them from learning and growing spiritually. The story of the Canaanite woman can be tricky to interpret but it shares the thematic link of food and belonging with the other half of the passage.

When Jesus talks about throwing food to the dogs, he may be offering the woman half of a parabolic saying and inviting her to complete it: a common rabbinic practice. When the woman responds, Jesus is impressed by her answer, commends her faith and heals her daughter, overturning expectations as he responds in this way to a Gentile woman. While the Pharisees are blinded by their offence over trivial things, a Gentile woman sees clearly who Jesus is, and Jesus wants the disciples to learn from her.

Who may be speaking into your community from a new perspective? How can we make sure we hear and value the voice of the 'outsider'?

Questions for reflection



When have you ever experienced life from the viewpoint of an outsider?

How can we be better at listening to those who are 'outsiders'?

What new understandings might we gain from listening to them?

Live your faith

Do something that gives you another perspective this week: e.g. listen to a new style of music or watch an informative TV programme that you do not normally watch. Talk with a friend about the experience.

A personal prayer

Lord, the Pharisees were offended by your words.

You could have been offended by the Canaanite woman's words.

I ask that, as I go about my business, I will take the time to consider each person I meet as unique, special to you, and worthy of my listening ear.

May I not be offended just because something is out of my comfort zone.

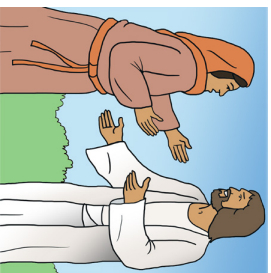
Amen

Name.....

Activity time

Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28

Jesus meets a woman with amazing faith and heals her daughter, despite what others might expect.



Family time

Talk How important is kindness in the world today, and why?

Do Watch a favourite film and write down all the words of kindness and affirmation you hear.

Pray Spell out the word PRAYER as an acrostic and write something next to each letter to pray for, e.g.

P – Peace in places where there is fighting.

R – Rest and relaxation over the summer.

A – Action for the climate crisis.

Y – Young people waiting for exam results.

E – Everyone I meet today.

R – Remembering people I miss a lot.

Draw

Can you imagine how the woman was feeling in the story? What was wrong with her little girl? Draw their faces to show their emotions.



Puzzle

How many hidden hearts you can spot in this picture? Colour them in as you find them.



ROOTS children's Sheet

16-22 August 2020

Write

Solve the clues to work out which words you need to find in the crossword.

Down

1. The woman calls out 'Lord! Son of _____!'
2. The woman asked Jesus to _____ her daughter.
3. The dogs eat _____ under their masters table.
4. The story takes place in Tyre and _____.

Across

5. The hero of the story is _____.
6. Jesus' friends are called the _____.

