



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Welcome to this Family Communion Service

The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

Gathering Prayer

May the grace of God be among us,
and the peace of God be on our hearts.

Amen.

“Sing to the Lord, and praise him, proclaim his glory to all the world, for the Lord is great and highly to be praised. Sing to the Lord, sing a new song to the Lord.”

Opening Song Build my life

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe

We live for You
Oh, we live for You

Chorus

*Holy, there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
And show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

Repeat from top

Chorus

O lead us Lord
O lead us Lord
O lead us Lord

And I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Chorus x2

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

And I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
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Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Brett Younker / Karl Andrew Martin / Kirby Kaple / Matt Redman / Pat Barrett

Build My Life lyrics © Bethel Music Publishing, Sentric Music

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

We confess before you, O God, that we are not always a good example of what it is to be a Christian.

We do not feel worthy that others should follow us.

And yet, Lord, you encourage us to share your love and reveal your truth and lead others to you.

We confess that we fail, and we are sorry.

We confess our inadequacies and carelessness in standing up for what is right against what is wrong.

Forgive us, Lord, and guide us in the ways of truth and justice.

**We want to be a good example, a shining example of what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus.
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

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Reading 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 read by Pam Blewitt

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. **3** We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, **5** because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. **6** You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. **7** And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. **8** The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia – your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, **9** for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, **10** and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Sermon. Natasha is opening God's Word for us today

Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was

buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand

of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions written and said by John Wheatley

In you O Lord ... **Do I put my trust**

Song Good Good Father

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like

But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night

And you tell me that you're pleased

And that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good, Good Father

It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are

And I'm loved by you

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide

But I know we're all searching

For answers only you provide

Cause you know just what we need

Before we say a word

Chorus

You are perfect in all of your ways

You are perfect in all of your ways

You are perfect in all of your ways to us

(x2)

Love so undeniable

I, I can hardly speak

Peace so unexplainable

I, I can hardly think

As you call me deeper still

As you call me deeper still

As you call me deeper still

Into love, love, love

Chorus (x3)

Written by Pat Barrett and Tony Brown

Performed by Lindsey Mackie & David Mackie

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times, it may seem strange to 'share the Peace.' But peace is from the heart and from God. God's peace in the Spirit moves among us and unites us, physically distanced yet one in the Body of Christ.

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

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We are invited to make spiritual Communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. And as we do so please listen to ... 'Death was arrested', instrumental © 2018 The Worship Initiative

Prayer after communion

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 Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)

Amazing grace

How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I'm found

Was blind, but now I see

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone

I've been set free

My God, my Saviour has ransomed me

And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me

His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures

Chorus x2

When we've been here 10,000 years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

Chorus

Unending Love, Amazing Grace

Songwriters: Stan Roto Walker / Traditional / David Pritchard-blunt / Chris Tomlin / Louie Giglio; lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC. Performed by Lindsey Mackie and David Mackie

Final Prayer & Blessing

Our faith in Jesus is nothing if we keep it hidden, leaving here at the end of this act of worship. God, help us to put into practice what we learn when we are together. Help us to take the message of Jesus beyond this time and place to the world we inhabit each day.

And may 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

1 Thessalonians is the oldest book in the New Testament, written less than 20 years after the crucifixion. The church of Thessalonica would have been a new Christian community and the letter addresses their concerns that Paul has not been back to see them. The Thessalonians have a positive reputation and perhaps were seen as the influencers of their day, being early adopters of the Christian faith and imitators of Paul.

We read that they were persecuted, but still they 'received the word with joy'. At this stage there would have been no written Gospels; instead, these early Christians would have been 'living' gospels, living out a life of hope and love, proclaiming the gospel through their lives. In our society we can read both negative and positive stories about the actions of Christians. This shines a light, perhaps uncomfortably, on our own lives when thinking about our choices, actions and responses. How can we be a positive influence for our friends, family, communities and society as a whole?

Questions for Reflection



How aware are you of the influencers in your life?

How would you feel if someone saw you as an influencer?

How can your church community develop an ethos which is worth imitating in your own life?

What makes you, you?

The mathematician and code-breaker Alan Turing endeavoured to make a machine with artificial intelligence. That is, he wanted his machine to imitate human responses – hence the name of the film *The Imitation Game*, based on his life. How would it feel to have a machine programmed to imitate you. What do you think it would do? What would you be proud of it being able to do?

Live your faith

Every time you post something on social media, ask yourself whether it will have a good, bad or neutral influence.

A personal prayer

Lord Jesus, in my quiet moments, may I offer my innermost desires and yearnings to you, that I may more and more walk my path in life conscious of you being at my side. Amen.

Name

1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

Paul writes to the Thessalonians encouraging them to be a good example to others.



Family time

Talk What are some of the things that have been handed down through your family that influence you?

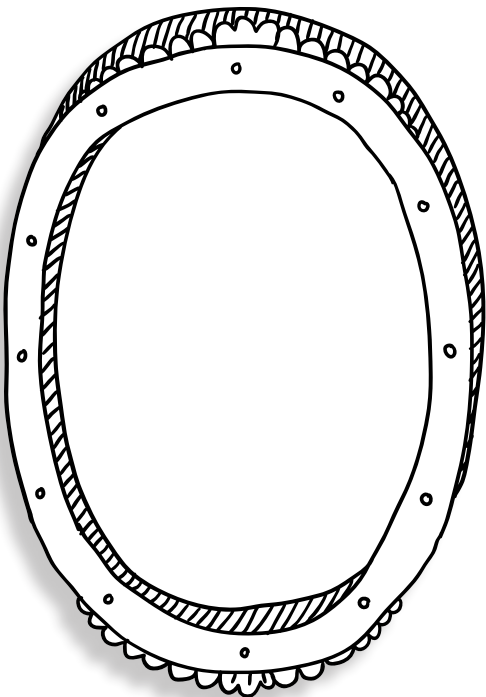
Do Look in a newspaper, magazine or watch the news and find out about someone who is being a positive influence now.

Pray This letter begins with 'Grace to you and peace'. At the end of every family mealtime this week, pray this simple prayer together.

Activity time



Look in a mirror and draw a picture of your reflection here.



Write words beginning with each letter to show what makes someone a good influence.

I
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f
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n
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ROOTS children's sheet

18-24 October 2020



Choose one person who has been a positive influence on you and write down a profile about them.

NAME	AGE
DRAW THE PERSON HERE	
STRENGTHS	
INFLUENCE	
INTERESTS	
WHY I CHOSE THIS PERSON	