



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Welcome to this Family Communion Service

The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

Gathering Prayer

To you, Lord of Life, we offer our gifts and our talents.
Use them and us to further your kingdom
and to glorify your name.

Amen.

Opening Song See the Light

Arise my soul
Remember this
He took my sin
And He buried it

No longer I who live
Now Jesus lives in me
For I was dead in sin
But I woke up to see the light

No I won't boast
But in the cross
That saved my soul
All else is loss

The grip of fear
Has no hold on me
So where o death
Where is your sting?

No longer I who live
Now Jesus lives in me
For I was dead in sin
But I woke up to see the light

All, all of this for your glory
x6

No longer I who live
Now Jesus lives in me
For I was dead in sin
But I woke up to see the light

All, all of this for your glory
x4

Source: [Musixmatch](#) Songwriters: Reuben Timothy Morgan / Benjamin David Fielding See The Light lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

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

**Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,**

**my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone.**

**O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of
life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from
excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen

Reading Matthew 25.14-30 read by Kate Holliday

14 'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted
his wealth to them. **15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to
another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. **16** The man
who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained
five bags more. **17** So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. **18** But the
man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's
money.

19 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with
them. **20** The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he
said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

21 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with
a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's
happiness!"

22 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with
two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more."

23 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with
a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's
happiness!"

24 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that
you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have
not scattered seed. **25** So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See,
here is what belongs to you."

26 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? **27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. **29** For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. **30** And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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 Richard Beckingsale

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

Song Break our Hearts - Vicky Beeching

It's time for us to live the songs we sing
And turn our good intentions into action
To bring the kind of worship You desire
And move beyond our self-absorbed distractions

The mountains are shaking
Could this be a great awakening

Break our hearts
With the things that break Yours
Wake us up to see through Your eyes
Break our hearts
With the things that break Yours
And send us out to shine in the darkness

It's time to move outside our comfort zone
To see beyond our churches and our homes
To change the way we think and how we spend
Until we look like Jesus again

Here I am send me
To be Your hands and feet
Here I am send me I will go

Source: [Musixmatch](#) Songwriters: Vicky Beeching Break Our Hearts lyrics © Integrity Worship Music, Thankyou Music

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 ... Remembrance (Communion Song) by Matt Redman © sixstepsrecords/Sparrowrecords 2010.

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 Counting Every Blessing

I was blind, now I'm seeing in colour
I was dead, now I'm living forever
I had failed, but you were my redeemer
I've been blessed beyond all measure

I was lost, now I'm found by the father
I've been changed from a ruin to treasure
I've been given a hope and a future
I've been blessed beyond all measure

I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting when I cannot see
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Surely every season you are good to me

Oh, you are good to me
Oh, you are good to me

You were there in the valley of shadows
You were there in the depth of my sorrows
You're my strength, my hope for tomorrow
I've been blessed beyond all measure

I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting when I cannot see
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Surely every season you are good to me

Oh, you are good to me
Oh, you are good to me

Surely your goodness pursues me
Surely your heart is still for me
I will remember your mercies all my days
Through every storm and gale

I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting when I cannot see
I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing
Surely every season you are good to me
x2

Oh, you are good to me
x4

For your goodness, I will ever praise you
Oh, you are good to me
Oh, you are good to me
Sing it out now
Oh, you are good to me

In my hurting
Oh, you are good to me
I'll sing it loud
Oh, you are good to me
Even in the dark
Oh, you are good to me
Lift your voices
Oh, you are good to me
All the time
Oh, you are good to me

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Gareth Gilkeson / Chris Llewellyn / Bridget Herron / Ali Gilkeson / Will Herron / Steve Mitchell / Patrick Thompson, Counting Every Blessing Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

Final Prayer & Blessing

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 and share your master's joy at home, at school, at work and in the community.

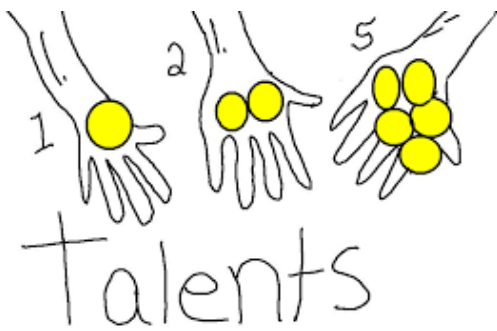
In the name of Christ, Amen.

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

Matthew 25. 14-30

This is Jesus' third parable in this series about living wisely, with an eye to the end of the world as we know it. Again, the storyline involves waiting for one whose arrival is delayed. An absent master returns unexpectedly, bringing reward to some and punishment to others.

Matthew and his Jewish readers would have seen here

a reference to Jesus returning as the Son of Man, a significant figure in the Jewish apocalyptic literature that was widely read at that time, especially the long composite work known as 1 Enoch which was characterised by its lurid descriptions of the dire fate awaiting those who were rejected.

Apocalyptic discussions were the ancient equivalent of lurid computer games, popular among Jews because of its promise of vindication to an oppressed people. Nasty people are zapped, and the goodies triumph.

At around the time Matthew was writing, a decree was issued banning Messianic Jews from the synagogues (see John 9.22; 16.2). So for him and his readers the elect who would be rewarded were Messianic Jews, while those who would be punished were those who had expelled them. For they had rejected Jesus and his followers and locked themselves in a Torah-shaped box. The elect were those who acknowledged Jesus and looked forward to his coming as the Son of Man.

Live your faith

Make and donate a 'grab bag' of essentials for people in need – e.g. a local food bank, a refugee project or a Christmas Shoebox appeal.

Personal prayers

Help me, Lord, to keep awake and be aware of the needs of others.

Give me discernment to make good choices,

wisdom to use my gifts wisely,

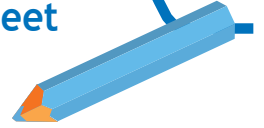
humility not to covet the talents of others

and the light of a prayerful heart

to guide me in all I do and say.

Amen.

Lord, so teach me to count my days that I may gain a wise heart. **Amen.**



Today's Bible reading

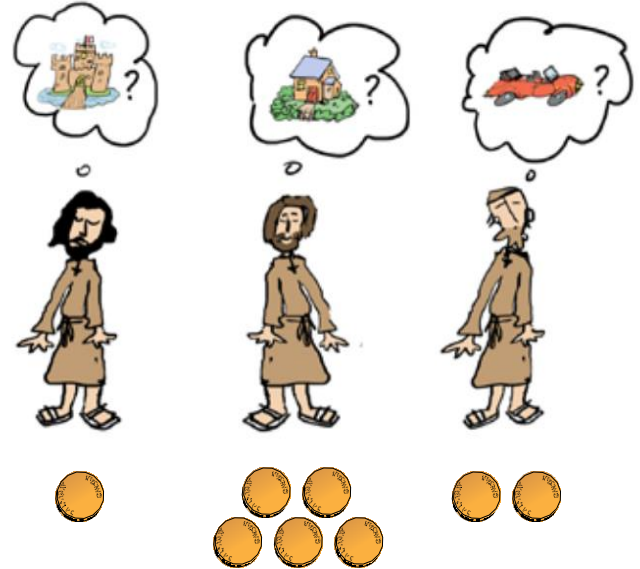
Matthew 25.14-30

Through a parable, Jesus explains that sometimes it is not enough to have something good, what really matters is how you use it.



Activity 1

How many gold coins were the servants given? Match the coins up with each servant.



Activity 2

Make a list or draw some of the things that you are good at.



god has given you many gifts.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you that you show us the best way to live.
be with us as we follow you this week.
Help us to choose to live your way
and use our gifts for the good
of others. Amen.

Live in faith

How will you know how to make good or bad choices this week?

Check it out

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C S Lewis, HarperCollins Children's Books, ISBN: 978-0-00732-312-8. DVD Edmund is faced with a difficult choice by the White Witch.