



# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



## Welcome to this Family Communion Service

### The Gathering

#### Welcome & Notices

#### Gathering Prayer

**The hour has come to let go of the cares and worries of the week that has passed, and to set aside the hopes and expectations we have for the week to come.**

**The hour has come to stop in the midst of the everyday, and to focus on this day and this moment, a time to consider life beyond ourselves.**

**Let us give this hour back to God.**

**Amen.**

#### Opening Song    Waiting here for you

*Songwriters: Tomlin Christopher D / Reeves Jesse Pryor / Smith Martin James. Waiting Here for You lyrics © Worshiptogether.com Songs, Sixsteps Music, Thank You Music Ltd., Vamos Publishing, Gloworks Ltd.*

#### 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*

God of mercy and compassion,  
we look to you to forgive our frailty and our weakness.

Like your disciples who went before us,  
we have not always understood what you strive to teach us,  
we have not always been as bold in our witness as we could have been,  
we have not always stood by the faith we hold so dear,  
and there have been times when we have betrayed your love.

Have mercy on us, and forgive us,  
for we are weak and frail.  
Strengthen us for your service,  
for we ask in the name  
of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### Collect

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Reading John 12. 20-33 read by Kate Holliday

"Everyone wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. There were some Greeks in the crowd who wanted to see Jesus. They asked Philip, Philip asked Andrew, and then they both asked Jesus. Jesus wondered how he could put into words all he wanted to say, especially for people who spoke different languages. 'It is time for the Son of Man to be glorified,' he said. What other words would help them understand? 'A single grain of wheat is simply a seed, but if it falls into the earth and dies, it will bear a lot of wheat.

'Those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it forever. Whoever follows me must be my servant and should go wherever I go. God will honour everyone who serves me.' So Jesus spoke words of death and life, of loss and gain, of serving and honouring. But sometimes the right words were hard to find.

'Now my soul is troubled,' said Jesus. 'What should I say? Father, save me from what lies ahead? No, I have come to this moment for a reason. Father, your name be glorified.' So Jesus spoke words of courage and obedience. Then a voice came from heaven: 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd, standing there, heard the voice and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' God spoke words of promise. Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the time for the world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.' Jesus spoke these words about his death, and hinted at what would happen afterwards.

Sermon. Nigel 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 Deb Whittaker

Song Knowing you Jesus ( all I once held dear )

Graham Kendrick. Copyright ©1993 Make Way Music, [www.grahamkendrick.co.uk](http://www.grahamkendrick.co.uk). Used with permission.

## 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 ....*

*The Stand (instrumental)*

*written by Joel Houston, Hillsong Worship; performed by iWorship Volume 4, used with permission.*

### Prayer after communion

*Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.*

**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      Hallelujah ( be high and lifted up )

*Written by Ben Cantalon; performed by Worship Lyric Videos, used with permission. CCLI #5120176*

### Final Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you now and forever more.  
Amen.

Song to take-away ... [All The Glory / And He Shall Reign - Graham Kendrick](#)

# Thank you for joining us today.



### **Donate here**

We know it's a lean time for many people, but if you feel able to donate to the work of the church (perhaps you weren't sure how during lockdown), just scan the code or [click here](#) to go to our new donation app. **Thank you!**

## All are welcome

### John 12.20-33

Some Greeks have asked to speak to Jesus, aware of the buzz surrounding him. Their request is passed through several people before it gets to Jesus; but it does – no one is too much trouble for Jesus. Jesus then speaks about his death, using the image of a seed which must die in order to produce the fruit for which it is designed. He finishes by saying that all will be drawn to him – Greeks included!

Now read **John 12.20-33** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

The message – that Jesus (God) is not just for Jews or any other particular nation or religious group: all are welcome! – is radical enough. What makes it more so is that to make this possible, Jesus must die and rise again. Only after he is 'lifted up' on the cross are all people drawn to him. What might we need to give up so that others may feel welcome?



If you are to welcome others, what are you carrying that may need to be put down?

## SIL\_NCE

Silence can be a very helpful way to connect with God. One way to do it is by looking at a picture. As you look, really notice all the details and think about what's going on. What questions does it give you? What feelings come up? What might God be saying to you through it? We call this meditation. If your mind wanders, when you notice, just bring it back to the picture! Take five minutes of silence each day to look at a picture of Jesus on the cross (do an internet search) and meditate on it.



## BAKE

To make fruit flapjacks, melt together ½ cup butter, 1 cup brown sugar and 4 tablespoons golden syrup. Stir in 2 cups rolled oats, ¼ cup chopped dried blackcurrants, ¼ cup sunflower seeds, ½ cup pumpkin seeds and ¼ cup sesame seeds. Stir well until all combined. Press the mixture into a greased baking tray and bake on 150 C/gas mark 2, for 20-30 minutes until golden brown. Allow to cool before cutting into pieces.

As you bake, talk or reflect about seeds and how their seeming death in the soil leads to huge multiplication.

## PEOPLE WATCH

Take a walk round your local area and 'people watch' as you go; notice all the different ways that people are busy with their day. Ask God for fresh eyes to see them as he does, and pray that God would draw them in.

## LET go

The disciples had to let go of a lot of their ideas about how things should be, in order to fully embrace Jesus' ideas about God's kingdom and those whom it fully embraces. All of us hold onto things that reinforce how we think things should be. Is there anything you can let go of as a symbol of being open to embrace all that God has for you? For example, maybe you could give away some money or sell a possession to support people in incredibly difficult situations – probably the people whom Jesus would choose to hang out with, if he were physically among us today.

## LENT GARDEN OF RESPONSES

Look at a picture of a sunflower. The head of a sunflower is absolutely jam packed with seeds. Each one potentially another plant that can grow until it too has a head full of seeds. Sunflowers can produce up to 1400 seeds per head! Think about how quickly you could multiply sunflowers! Now think about your impact on the world around you. If you were to positively impact two people, and they in turn another two each, how quickly would the world become a more positive place? This week, make it your daily mission to encourage someone in something they are doing. Create or draw a sunflower to represent each person you encouraged, and place the flowers in your garden tray or on your garden page (that you've been progressing throughout Lent).

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# ROOTS Activity Sheet

21-27 March 2021  
Lent 5

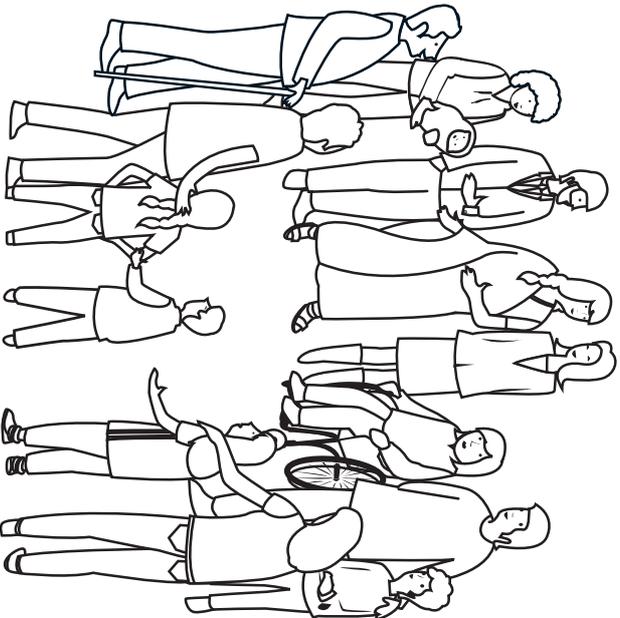


John 12.20-33

Some people from another country ask to see Jesus, and he tells them about how he is going to die.



Match up the names with what they did to complete parts of the story.



Jesus

heard a voice from heaven.

Philip and Andrew

told people he would die for them.

Some Greeks

wanted to see Jesus.

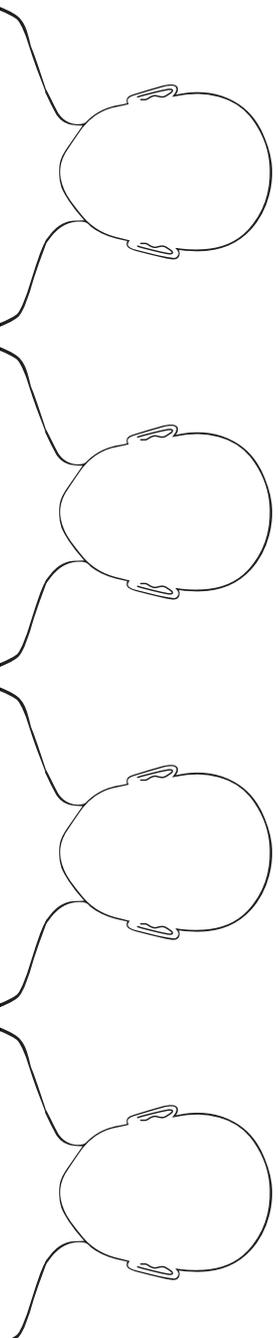
The crowd

led people to Jesus.

Jesus says, 'I will draw all people to myself.'



Complete these pictures to show people who Jesus welcomes.



Colour in these words when you find them in the word search. The letters that are left reveal a message from Jesus when read from left to right, top to bottom.

G	a	l	A	l	p	a	n
r	l	v	n	r	u	e	a
e	t	o	d	p	d	w	M
e	a	i	r	h	e	e	f
k	e	c	e	i	t	e	o
s	h	e	w	l	f	l	n
c	w	o	m	i	i	y	o
d	i	e	l	p	l	e	S

- |         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Greeks  | lifted up  |
| Andrew  | Philip     |
| die     | Son of Man |
| glorify | voice      |
| life    | wheat      |

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England © The Archbishops' Council (2000)