

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Maunder Thursday

a reflective communion service

The Greeting

'If there is love among you, then all people will know that you are my disciples'

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

What is Agape?

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

1Cor.13:4-8

Confessing our sins

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: 'If you love me, keep my commandments.' 'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.' Let us confess to almighty God how we have failed him, and ask him to cleanse us.

Silence is kept

In our selfishness we betray you:

Lord forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

We fail to share the pain of your suffering:
Lord forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

We run away from those who abuse you:
Lord forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:
Lord forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

May the Father forgive us through the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of his Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

The Collect

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes. May he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Dwelling in **the Word** using Matthew 26. 17-30

Video: The Last Supper, an extract from the LAMPS production of The Passion. Mary Magdalene is played by Emma Jane Ramsden, directed by Sam Pullen-Campbell; 2020.

17 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'

18 He replied, 'Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, "The Teacher says: my appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house."' **19** So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. **21** And while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.'

22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, 'Surely you don't mean me, Lord?'

23 Jesus replied, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. **24** The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.'

25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, 'Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?'

Jesus answered, 'You have said so.'

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. **28** This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Reflective Hymn A new commandment

Provided by St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Royal School of Church Music

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 is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us your son to rescue us from sin and death.

your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song.

Holy, Holy Holy Lord God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your Glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song.

Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song.

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

“This is my body, given for you all”

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said:

“This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me”

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours 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 forever.
Amen.

Breaking of the bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

*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

Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart

Provided by St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Royal School of Church Music

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God and Father, whose Son at supper prayed that His disciples might be one, as He is one with You: draw us closer to Him, that in love and obedience that we may be united to one another in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that He is Lord to Your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Final Prayer

Christ crucified, draw us to yourself, that we may find in you a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.' He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.'

Christ was obedient unto death. Go in His peace.



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