

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Welcome to this Family service Sunday 8th August 2021

Led by Revd Natasha Brady

**Come! It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to give praises to his name.**

A gathering prayer

**Lord God, you have the bread of life for the hungry
and living water for the thirsty.**

**We come hungry and thirsty for your word,
with a desire to know your will
and to love with your unconditional love.**

**Help us to be fed and to learn from you.
Amen.**

Song Shine Jesus Shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father

Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light
Lord, and let there be light, let there be light.

Source: Musixmatch, Songwriters: Kendrick Graham; Shine Jesus Shine lyrics © Make Way Music 1987

Confession

When we make wrong assumptions about others and judge the way they live:
forgive us, Lord, for limiting people and possibilities.

When we don't allow others to speak out and be the people you have called them to be:
forgive us, Lord, for limiting people and possibilities.

When we cast judgements on particular communities or neighbourhoods that are different from ours:
forgive us, Lord, for limiting people and possibilities.

Let us journey together towards wholeness and healing, knowing that only God can sustain us and set us free.

Amen.

Reading John 6. 35, 41-51 read to us by Margriet Wells

35 Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

41 At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' **42** They said, 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I came down from heaven"?'

43 'Stop grumbling among yourselves,' Jesus answered. **44** 'No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. **45** It is written in the Prophets: "They will all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. **46** No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. **47** Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. **48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. **50** But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live for ever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.'

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

Affirmation of Faith

We say together in faith

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come.

**We believe in God the Father, who created all things:
for by his will they were created and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
for with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say 'Come!' Even so come Lord Jesus!
Amen**

cf Revelation 4.8,11;5.9;22.17,20

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

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
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Source: Musixmatch. Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Louie Giglio. Performed by Audacious Worship, used with permission by GloworksTV.com

Intercessions prepared by Richard Beckingsale

In you O Lord **Do we put our trust**

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.

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

Song Guide me O thou Great Redeemer

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore
Feed me now and evermore

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey though
Strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my strength and shield
Be Thou still my strength and shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death
And hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee
I will ever give to thee

Written by William Williams (1745); Translator: Peter Williams (1771). Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer, Performed by Graham Kendrick - Worship at Home, originally recorded for Christchurch Tunbridge Wells and used with permission

Final Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for believing in us,
for seeing beyond our outside
and knowing who we really are inside.

Thank you for giving us all we need to do your work,
even when others may tell us we are 'only'.

Thank you, Lord, for calling us to be adverts for you,
so that others can see that you also believe in them.
Amen.

Thank you for joining us today.

Notices can be found on your [Friday Email](#), on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Quick Note The Church office will be open Monday & Thursday 10am – 1pm, other days please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331.



Life without limits

John 6.35,41-51

Jesus calls himself the, 'bread of life', which causes some anger from those he is speaking to who ask: isn't this the son of Mary and Joseph, people we know, why is he saying he is from heaven? Jesus responds by telling them not to complain among themselves and that no one will come to him except those who are drawn by the Father. He then goes on to use the example of bread to explain how, unlike the ancestors who received bread in the desert and died, he is the living bread who brings eternal life.

Now read John 6.35,41-51 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Those in this passage think that they know Jesus and therefore question him and what he is saying. It is easy to make assumptions about people, and difficult to stop, listen and try to understand. We can see in wider society how this can lead to conflict, prejudice and disharmony. For you, where are the uncomfortable spaces where you need to listen and grow your understanding? When have you experienced others making assumptions about you?

LIMITS

Set yourself some limits this week, e.g. restricting how much time you spend on social media. But also set some positive limits as targets, e.g. spend an hour each day outdoors. Think about ways you can also limit the assumptions you make about others, i.e. when you meet someone, count to 60 before you make any kind of decision about the kind of person they are. Use this to help you unpack what kind of assumptions you may be carrying with you about others.



Ask yourself:
How have our assumptions about which professions are seen as 'heroes' changed in the past year?

GROW UNDERSTANDING

Every day this week, try to talk to someone, listen to a podcast, radio programme or watch a short video, to help you understand something which is not your life experience but which you want to understand more about. Ted Talks are a good place to start.
<https://www.ted.com/talks>



Do an active reading of the passage – either using your imagination or with others. If possible, have a narrator who reads the passage. As the words are read out by the narrator, others should play the 'characters', but rather than speaking use their body language to react to what's being said. Or you can imagine the scene and the reactions – what do the words convey? How are they received?

SEE IT DIFFERENTLY

Invert the colours on your mobile phone, you can do an internet search on how to do this.



<https://lifehacker.com/invert-your-phones-colors-for-easier-night-reading-5957534>

How does this make your phone and images look? Things are the same, but different. Those in the passage and Jesus are seeing things in a different way; just as when we invert our colours, things can look very different and yet we are seeing the same thing. What can this teach us about differing perspectives?

→ PUSH YOURSELF

Teach yourself a new physical skill, one you can practice indoors or outdoors like juggling, balancing exercises, a roly-poly! How does it feel to step into the new? Was it difficult? Did you have to push through? How did it feel once you'd achieved your goals? How could these feelings and experiences be related to this passage?