

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



## Family Communion Service 15th August 2021

*"Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks to his holy name..." Ps.30.4*

### The Gathering

#### Welcome & Notices

#### Prayer of approach

**Lord, it is your will that we should gather here today.  
We come by invitation,  
to drink deeply of the fullness of your love,  
and the depth of your joy.  
Our hearts are bursting at the seams  
with the wonder of it all.  
We welcome you into our midst, dear Lord.  
Amen.**

#### Song Lord I need you

*Songwriters: Christy Nockels / Daniel Carson / Jesse Pryor Reeves / Matthew G Maher / Kristian Paul Stanfill. Performed by iWorship TV, used by permission from [WorshipHouseMedia.com](http://WorshipHouseMedia.com)*

### 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

*take a moment to reflect ...*

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

### Assurance of forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Collect

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### Reading Ephesians 5.15-20 read by Pam Blewett

**15** Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. **18** Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, **20** always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Song            Give thanks

*Performed by Bright City, used with permission from GloworksTV.com*

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.**

**He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

Intercessions                      by Jamie Brady

In you O Lord

**Do we put our trust**

## **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

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*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 ... Agnus Dei performed by Hake Isaac & Lucy Grimble, GloworksTV*

### 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 Be thou my vision

*Performed by Worship Lyric Video*

Final Prayer & Blessing

**God of all joy,  
we go out into your world with our hearts beating  
to the tune of your music.  
Help us to find new songs in all we do,  
and to share our joy in you with everyone around us.  
Praise be to you, most blessed Lord. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# Thank you for joining us today.



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Thank you for whatever you are able to give

## Imitators of God

### Notes on the Bible readings

- Having introduced the concept of the Christian community as a body, Paul tells the Ephesians that this 'body of Christ' is based on revolutionary values that makes it altogether different from wider Roman society. Truth is the unifying principle – 'put away all falsehood' (v.25) – yet Paul quickly goes into specifics as to how this truth is to be made manifest: it is through one's behaviour.

- As someone who had to work as a tent-maker to support himself, Paul is aware that he is reliant on people beyond the church community to raise a wage. So he instructs the Ephesians in how to behave as they live and work with their non-Christian neighbours: for example, no longer sacrificing or praying to the 'civic gods' and asking for blessings and curses from them; holding themselves accountable to a higher standard in trade and commerce; realising that gaining family honour over a rival is no longer important.

- Paul goes on to speak about actions and attitudes that build up and bring down, and how the latter grieves the Holy Spirit. In describing actions that build up, he is describing God himself. Therefore, when we are kind, tender-hearted and forgiving, we are imitators of God, and are seen to be his children.

- Finally, Paul employs the language of offering and sacrifice (5.2), suggesting that if we imitate God in our behaviour, in life and in death, when others see us, they will see Christ.

For reflection and comment linking this week's Bible reading to the news, current issues and events, go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) and click on PostScript.



### Questions for reflection

- ▶ What do you think motivates the various people in this photo?
- ▶ Does our behaviour show the world what God is like?
- ▶ How might we be better 'imitators of God'?



### A prayer of thanksgiving

*Lord God, we thank you so much that you are not a distant God, who can only be worshipped from afar. We thank you that we are your dearly loved children. Through Jesus you came close to us, so that we can truly know you. Thank you, dear God, that in Christ we are part of your great plan. Amen.*

### A prayer for others

*Lord God, there are so many people who need the difference in their lives that only you can bring. Lord, sometimes we feel so useless when faced with all the needs of our world. We forget the important part we play just by opening our lives to you, praying to you, and being your hands and feet. We pray today for our families, our friends, our peers, our teachers. We pray for everyone who has helped us grow closer to you; for our church family, and our ministers. We pray for our community, the world in which we live and work and have our being. We pray for people who feel they have nothing to share, nothing even to live for; the homeless, prisoners, people at the end of relationships, the sick and those who mourn. Help us to share through our prayer and through our care. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*Dear Lord, I ask you to forgive me for the times I don't act in a way that honours you. I know that sometimes I concentrate so much on getting the big things right that I forget that the little and the in-between things matter just as much. Help me to walk your way Lord. Amen.*

### Live your faith

Plan a random act of kindness – and do it. Better still, do one for someone you know well, and one for a complete stranger.