



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 22nd August 2021

Led by Revd Natasha Brady

Notices can be found on your [Friday Email](#), on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
At the end of the service sheet, are your Roots at Home Sheet.

please join in using the words in **bold**

Opening Hymn

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name
Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name

Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name

When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I'll say
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name
You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Written by Beth & Matt Redman. Performed by Worship Lyric Video, used with permission. Lyrics
Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com)

Prayer of Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand"
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners,
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen

Song

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus
Knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know you more
To be found in you and known as yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness
Oh, to know the power of your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like you in your death, my Lord
So with you to live and never die

Written and performed by Graham Kendrick. Copyright © 1993 Make Way Music, www.grahamkendrick.co.uk

Psalm 84 - said

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord Almighty!
- 2 My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young – a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King
and my God.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.
- 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
- 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the
autumn rains also cover it with pools.
- 7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.
- 8 Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob.
- 9 Look on our shield, O God; look with favour on your anointed one.
- 10 Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a
doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour;
no good thing does he withhold from those whose way of life is blameless.
- 12 Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

Scripture Reading

John 6.56- 69, read by Richard Beckingsale

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. **57** Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. **58** This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live for ever.' **59** He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?'

61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, 'Does this offend you? **62** Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! **63** The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life. **64** Yet there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. **65** He went on to say, 'This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.'

66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

67 'You do not want to leave too, do you?' Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. **69** We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Canticle – said

The Benedictus

**1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.**

**2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**

**3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,**

**4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68–79

Sermon by Nigel Lowe

The 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.**

Prayers

The response is:

Lord hear us **Lord, graciously hear us**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Collect for the 12th Sunday after Trinity

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Final Hymn

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

- 2 To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

- 3 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever

with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

- 4 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

Anonymous Latin translated by John M Neale (1818-1866),(Public Domain) Performed by St Martin's Voices, London.

The Blessing

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

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To whom can we go?

John 6.56-69

The disciples struggle to understand Jesus' teachings. What he says is challenging, but also encouraging, as he tells them that the words he speaks are spirit and life. After hearing what Jesus has to say, some of his followers decide to walk away. When Jesus asks those who have remained if they want to leave, they say, '...to whom can we go?' There is no alternative, Jesus is the Holy One – even if it is sometimes difficult to fully understand his teaching.

Now read **John 6.56-69** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

How do you feel when you don't understand something? Now imagine how the disciples must have felt in this instance. They had given up everything to follow Jesus, and here he is, speaking in what must have sounded like riddles. Yet those that made the difficult choice to continue following him did so because of their belief in him. How can these words be a message of hope and assurance in your own faith journey?



Ask yourself: How does it feel to follow a path to somewhere unknown?

WALK

Go outside to somewhere you can safely walk barefoot. Take a moment to feel the ground beneath your feet. Take a step and, as you do so, think of one reason you follow Jesus. Continue, pausing between each step as you make this walking prayer.

PLAY

The disciples are at the beginning of an exciting story as they choose to follow Jesus. However, they don't know where it will lead. Play the simple game, 'Consequences', where you don't know how the story will unfold. Each player starts with a piece of paper. The players each write a phrase as the first step in a story, and then fold the paper to hide the phrase before passing it to the next player; continue passing between players for eight steps. The steps are as follows, where the things in brackets should be replaced by the chosen words or phrase: (boy's name); met (girl's name); in/at/on (where they met); He said (what he said); She said (what she said); He (what he did); She (what she did); The consequence was (what happened). When the players have completed all eight steps, the pieces of paper are unfolded in turn, and the players read out the completed, usually funny, stories.

WATCH

Watch a film or documentary about someone who has given things up to follow a dream or passion, such as *The Pursuit of Happyness* [PG] or *Free Solo* [12A]. Why do you think the disciples chose to follow Jesus? What answers might they have wanted?

ROCK REMINDER

Find a rock to decorate with some of the words from the verse, 'We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God'. There is a certainty in Simon Peter's response – this rock can serve as a reminder of this. Leave it somewhere in your community for someone else to find.

FOLLOW

Create one positive message, window display, meme or social media post every day this week, to share with your 'followers' or those you come into contact with, influenced by the words of Jesus about following him. What is it about Jesus that compels you to follow him? How does following him help you in your daily life, even when you don't have all the answers?

