

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



## Welcome to this Family Service

Led by Revd Natasha Brady

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Psalm 116.8

### A gathering prayer

Creative God, you called us into your kingdom,  
and adopted us as your children.

Redeeming Saviour,  
you showed us how to be servants,  
denying ourselves to serve others.

Sustaining Spirit,  
you give us strength to take up our cross  
in the service of the kingdom of God.

Teach us to serve others, and in doing so, to serve you.

**Amen.**

### Song

**Who you say I am**

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost, but He brought me in

Oh His love for me

Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free

Oh, is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me  
Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me  
I am who You say I am  
(x2)

I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am  
(x2)

I am chosen, not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me  
I am who You say I am  
(x3)

Oh I am who You say I am  
Yes, I am who you say I am

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Songwriters: Reuben Timothy Morgan / Benjamin David Fielding  
Who You Say I Am lyrics © Hillsong Publishing  
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## Confession

‘Who is Jesus?’

For the times I have been asked this question, and have  
struggled to give an answer:

**Forgive me, Lord, and give me your words to speak.**

For the times I have been ashamed to acknowledge you:

**Forgive me, Lord, and grant me courage.**

For the times I considered only human concerns, and not God’s:

**Forgive me, Lord, and widen my horizons.**

For the times I saw opportunities to take risks for God but  
looked the other way through fear or indecision:

**Forgive me, Lord, and build up my confidence in you.**

For the times I only take the chocolates I like out of your box:

**Forgive me, Lord, and make me whole, ready to do your good will.**

**Amen.**

**Reading** Mark 8.27-38 read to us by Kate Holliday

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, ‘Who do people say I am?’

28 They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’

29 ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’

Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah.’

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. ‘Get behind me, Satan!’ he said. ‘You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.’

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'

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

**Holy Spirit (you are welcome here)**

There's nothing worth more  
That will ever come close  
nothing can compare  
You're our living hope  
Your presence

I've tasted and seen  
of the sweetest of love  
Were my heart becomes free  
and my shame is undone  
Your presence Lord

Holy Spirit you are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your glory God is what our hearts long for

To be overcome by your presence Lord

Let us become more aware of your presence  
Let us become experience the glory of your goodness  
Let us become more aware of your presence  
Let us become experience the glory of your goodness  
Lord

Songwriters: Bryan Torwalt and Katie Torwalt  
This performance by Martin Smith and Faye Simpson  
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Intercessions .... prepared by Simon McDowell

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

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 God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Song

**Good Good Father**

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night  
And you tell me that you're pleased  
And that I'm never alone

*Chorus*

*You're a Good, Good Father*

*It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are*

*And I'm loved by you*

*It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am*

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide  
But I know we're all searching

For answers only you provide  
'Cause you know just what we need  
Before we say a word

*Chorus*

You are perfect in all of your ways  
You are perfect in all of your ways  
You are perfect in all of your ways to us  
(x2)

Love so undeniable  
I, I can hardly speak  
Peace so unexplainable  
I, I can hardly think

As you call me deeper still  
As you call me deeper still  
As you call me deeper still  
Into love, love, love

*Chorus (x3)*

Written by Pat Barrett and Tony Brown. Performed by Lindsey Mackie & David Mackie

The Peace

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

**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](mailto:office@stokepogeschurch.org) or phone 01753 642331.





## Package deal

### Mark 8.27-38

In this difficult passage, Jesus asks his disciples who they think he is. They tell him that he is the Messiah and his response is that, while this is wonderful, it also means there will be testing times ahead – both for him and for his followers.

Now read **Mark 8.27-38** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

The answer to the question Jesus asks in this passage, 'Who do you say that I am?', is both a celebration and a challenge. Jesus is the Messiah – the Saviour of the World, the one who will set us free, restore our relationship with God and bring us eternal life. But, if we believe that Jesus is the Messiah, there's also a cost. We have to accept the full package: the joy alongside the pain; God's love for us alongside us loving others, even those who are hard to love; making God – and not ourselves – the most important part of our lives.



**Ask yourself:** What, for you, are the risks and rewards of following Jesus?



Play a game of Uno or Snakes and Ladders, or any game that has risks and rewards. Alternatively, use a pack of cards to build a tower. While you play/build, appreciate that, to progress, you may need to seemingly fail sometimes; to succeed, you'll need to accept risk. Embrace both the opportunities and the challenges, in order to complete the game or finish your structure.



Go on a walk – notice that some parts will be uphill, but these allow us to enjoy the view. Some parts are flat, and this gives us a chance to rest and notice what's around us. Are the leaves changing colour on the trees? Have flowers died? Without autumn, we can't have spring. For buds to reappear, fruit to grow and flowers to bloom again next year, they need to die. Just like in life, following Jesus includes highs and lows, challenges and rewards. But it is often through the difficult times that we grow, and it is the difficult times that make us appreciate the good times even more.



Do a jigsaw puzzle (you can do this online as well <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/>) – some pieces will be more difficult to slot into the puzzle than others, but they're all needed to create the full picture. Some parts of our Christian life will be easier than others, but they're all part of the big picture of who God is shaping us to be.



When people talk about 'the full package', they're generally referring to all of a person's positive attributes (their wealth, looks, success, humour, etc.). Jesus had amazing attributes, but not all of them were easy to live with (think of the money changers in the Temple and the ways Jesus often challenged people). Draw or write 'Jesus' on a large sheet of paper and, each day, write a different benefit or challenge to following Jesus – perhaps you could take it in turns with others or those you live with.

## Pray

Talk together or think about what aspects of being a follower of Jesus you find most difficult. Pray for God to help you in these areas. If you're with others, perhaps you could pray for each other about these things.