



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 24th October 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, is your *Roots at Home Sheet*.*

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

Opening Hymn

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him, and rejoice.
- 2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.
- 3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

- 4 For why? the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.
- 5 To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore.

Sung by St Martins Voices, written by William Kethe, (fl 1559-died 1594), #CCLI 996498

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 you from your sins,
and restore you 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 forever.

Amen

Song

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
 whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
 who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
 its own appointed limits keep:
 O hear us when we cry to thee
 for those in peril on the sea.

- 2 O Saviour whose almighty word
 the winds and waves submissive heard,
 who walkedst on the foaming deep,

and calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
who badst its angry tumult cease,
and gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and power,
our brethren shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go:
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Performed by the Choral Scholars of St Martins in the Field, written by William Whiting (1825-1878)

Psalm 126 - **said**

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

2 Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

4 Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.

5 Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

6 Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

**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 forever. Amen**

Scripture Reading

Mark 10.46-52, read by Pam Blewett

46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means 'son of Timaeus'), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!'

48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!'

49 Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.'

So they called to the blind man, 'Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.' 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

51 'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, 'Rabbi, I want to see.'

52 'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Canticle – said

A song of David

1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever for yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.

2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.

3 Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all.

4 In your hand are power and strength to all.

5 And now we give you thanks our God, and praise your glorious name.

6 For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b

Sermon by Revd. Natasha

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:

In you O Lord ~ do we put our trust

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 last after Trinity

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Final Hymn

Before the throne of God above
sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Before the throne of God above
 I have a strong, a perfect plea:
 a great High Priest, whose name is "Love",
 who ever lives and pleads for me.
 My name is graven on His hands,
 my name is written on His heart;
 I know that while in heaven He stands
 no tongue can bid me thence depart.

- 2 When Satan tempts me to despair,
 and tells me of the guilt within,
 upward I look, and see Him there
 who made an end to all my sin.
 Because the sinless Saviour died,
 my sinful soul is counted free;
 For God, the Just, is satisfied
 to look on Him and pardon me.

- 3 Behold Him there! the Risen Lamb!

my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased by His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

Second part of tune

- 4 My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

Charitie L De Chenez (1841-1923)

(CCLI 2306412)

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

Thank you for joining us today



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Blind faith

 **Mark 10.46-52**

On his journey south to Jerusalem, Jesus is leaving Jericho when he hears his name called by a blind beggar, Bartimaeus. While some try to keep the man quiet, Jesus responds to the plea of Bartimaeus and calls him over. When his sight is miraculously restored, he follows Jesus.

Now read **Mark 10.46-52** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Bartimaeus appears to have heard of Jesus, and to have known something of his ministry, so he calls out to Jesus for mercy. No wonder he throws aside his cloak and puts aside the trappings of a beggar to go forwards in hope. He asks for just one thing, but that will change his life in every way. What would you ask of Jesus?



Ask yourself: What do you see – what is it? Can you think of a time when faith has helped you to see something differently?

W₄ **O**₁ **R**₁ **D**₂ **S**₄

Play a word game by adding another word in front of or after 'BLIND' e.g. blind faith, window blind. Are some of the results positive and others negative in their meaning? How might this change your understanding of 'blind' when applied to 'faith'? It might be fun to use Scrabble™ letters to help you to make your words.



It may seem a little surprising that Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants. When King Solomon had asked God for wisdom, he was also given wealth and long life, even though those had not been at the top of his list. The one change which would most affect our life will be different for each of us. In a quiet time each day, look back at a point in your life when you have had to make a decision, in faith. Make a note and, at the end of the week, look at those times as a map of your faith journey. If you can't identify such moments, read some chapters of the Acts of the Apostles to see how others acted in faith and how they were changed.

 **LISTEN**

When Bartimaeus shouted out, some ordered him to be quiet. Why did they try to silence him? Were they concerned for him or for Jesus? Were they worried that Jesus couldn't help him – or maybe that he could? When Jesus heard Bartimaeus, he called him over and listened to him. Despite the worldwide network of communication which we enjoy today, there are still some whose voice is not heard. Find out about the work of the Barnabas Fund which supports Christians who are persecuted for their faith and forbidden to speak out.

Believe



The phrase 'blind faith' is often used as an insult, yet it may be something we all practice every day. Take a tour round your home, noticing what you take for granted. Press a light switch; turn on a tap. Look outside at anything which is growing, or dying back in its natural cycle. You have faith that things happen, without any input from yourself. What was Bartimaeus expecting when he asked Jesus to have mercy on him? What do you have the faith to ask for?

Plant

If you have ever enjoyed a walk in woodland, you will appreciate the special atmosphere of ancient trees. They also provide natural habitats and improve air quality. The 'Queen's Green Canopy' is a tree planting initiative to mark her Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone in the UK is invited to plant trees from this month through to the end of 2022. Have faith in the future that you can't yet see, by helping to create new ancient forests. Take part now! Either pop down to your local Garden Centre or request a free tree pack for your school or community from the Woodland Trust. woodlandtrust.org.uk.