



# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's

## Mid - Week Communion Service

### The Gathering

#### The Greeting

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed, Alleluia**

#### Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive you your sins,  
open your eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen you to do God's will  
and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### The Comfortable Words

Here the words of comfort our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him:  
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
*Matthew 11.28*

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.  
*John 3.16*

Hear what St Paul says: This saying is true and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ  
Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
*1 Timothy 1.15*

Hear what St John says: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.

*1 John 2.1-2*

## The Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

## The Absolution

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.**

## The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest: and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God heavenly King: almighty God and Father,  
we worship you we give you thanks:  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father: Lord God Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One: you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Readings

After the epistle we say:

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Gospel we say:

Hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

**Glory to you O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ.**

### The Reflection

*Each week we will hear from a variety of reputable and orthodox teachers from centuries past. Extracts will be read to us from sermons, hymns, theological treatises, Biblical commentaries, letters, prayers and poems ... to deepen our faith. This should remind us that all scripture is God breathed and that it's truths and the lessons learnt from them, through the ages, are still useful for us today.*



*This week we hear an excerpt by Cyril of Alexandria from his commentary on John's gospel. **John 15.1-8***

Cyril was born in Alexandria and is first heard of as a young priest. He succeeded his uncle as Patriarch in 412 AD. From this time on, he went to great lengths to defend the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and the Incarnate Christ. He ensured that the union of Jesus's divinity and humanity was not undermined and

remained known as real and true. He was renowned for his outstanding qualities as a theologian and precision in exposition, accuracy in thought and skill in reasoning. He died in the year 444.

## The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

We pray for the Church ...  
( *and so we pray* )

**Strengthen our bishops and all your Church in the service of Christ,  
that those who confess your name may be united in your truth,  
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.**

In you O Lord  
**do we put our trust.**

We pray for the World ...

*( and so we pray )*

**Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen;  
give wisdom to all in authority;  
and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace;  
that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.**

In you O Lord

**do we put our trust.**

We pray for our Community ...

*( and so we pray )*

**Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours,  
that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

In you O Lord

**do we put our trust.**

We pray for those in special need ...

*( and so we pray )*

**Comfort and heals all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;  
give them courage and hope in their troubles;  
and bring them the joy of your salvation.**

In you O Lord

**do we put our trust.**

We remember those who have died and pray for the bereaved ...

*( and so we pray )*

**Remembering all who have gone before us in faith, and in communion with all the  
saints, we commit ourselves, one for another and our whole life to Christ our God;**

**to you O Lord.**

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

*'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'*

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

*'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.'*

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together until that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the resurrection which renews God's creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*We are invited to make a spiritual communion with God who comes to meet us where we are.*

*There are no special words or prayers for this.*

*All the Church has ever thought necessary is a true desire to receive Christ, a lively faith in Christ and a genuine love for Christ and his people.*

*As we make our spiritual communion together please listen to 'Thank you for saving me'.*

Songwriter: Martin Smith. © 1994 Curious? Music UK

## Prayer after Communion

*We say together*

**Eternal God,**

**whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:**

**grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;**

**who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### Blessing

May God bless us with strength to seek justice.

May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth.

May God bless us with love to bring forth new life

And may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia

**In the name of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia.**