

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Note

To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

Welcome to this Family Communion Service

The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

Spirit of truth, come close to us.
Unite us into the body of Christ.
Enable us to worship God in Spirit and in truth.
Help us to support and encourage each other.
Help us to love as we are loved.
Spirit of truth, come and abide in us.

Amen.

Songs "Where the Spirit of the Lord is" Hillsong Worship

Where the Spirit of the Lord is
For we know the truth
Your truth has set us free
In Your Name alone

We have been released
You are here with us
You are here with us

We are slaves no more
Freedom is our hope
Never looking back
Jesus, You are Lord
We give all to You
We give all to You

Chorus

Where the Spirit of the Lord is
There is freedom
Where the Spirit of the Lord is
Chains are broken
Eyes are open
Christ is with us
Christ is with us

Who the Son has freed
He is free indeed
All our sin is gone
We have been redeemed
Jesus paid it all
Jesus paid it all

Chorus x2

Open wide the gates of heaven
Fill our hearts as we surrender
Lord let Your presence fall
Lord let Your presence fall
Open wide the gates of heaven
We will worship You forever
Lord let Your presence fall
Lord let Your presence fall
x2

Chorus

Songwriters: Fielding Benjamin David

"Good Good Father" Chris Tomlin

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

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

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

Because 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
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

Oh, it's 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

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

x3

You're a good good father

You are perfect in all of your ways
It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you
You are perfect in all of your ways
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Songwriters: Anthony Brown / Pat Barrett

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

After a period of reflection

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.

**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

Collect for 6th Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading John 14.15-21 ... read to us by Richard Beckingsale

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[c] in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. **21** Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Sermon. Natasha is opening God’s Word for us today

Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Intercessions ... prepared and read to us by John Wheatley

Response: God of love, **hear our prayer**

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.

Song "Holy Spirit you are welcome here" Francesca Battistelli

There's nothing worth more
That will ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence Lord

I've tasted & seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
And my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord
Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place & fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord
Your presence, Lord

repeat from top

Let us become more aware
Of Your presence
Let us experience
The glory of Your goodness
(x4)

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place & fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord

Songwriters: Torwalt Bryan James / Torwalt Katie

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

In times of hope, in times of trouble, in times of sorrow, in times of praise,
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 "Be Still for the presence of the Lord". This is an instrumental version but we have provided lyrics if you would to use them.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

Songwriters: David Evans

Prayer after communion

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.

Song "Yes and Amen" Chris Tomlin

Father of kindness
You have poured out grace
You brought me out of darkness
You have filled me with peace

Giver of mercy
You're my help in time of need
Lord I can't help but sing

Faithful you are
Faithful forever you will be
Faithful you are
All your promises are yes and Amen
All your promises are yes and Amen

Beautiful Saviour
You have brought me near
You pulled me from the ashes
You have broken every curse
Blessed redeemer
You have set this captive free
Lord I can't help but sing

Faithful you are
Faithful forever you will be
Faithful you are
All your promises are yes and Amen
All your promises are yes and Amen

Faithful you are
Faithful forever you will be
Faithful you are, yes you are
All your promises are yes and Amen

I will rest in your promises
My confidence is your faithfulness
(x4)

Faithful you are
Faithful forever you will be
Faithful yes you are
All your promises are yes and Amen
All your promises are yes and Amen
All your promises are yes and Amen

Songwriters: Tony Brown / Chris McClamey / Nate Moore

The Dismissal

Closing Prayer for all ages together

Hold your hands together in prayer; then hold your arms around yourself as if being hugged.

Thank you, Lord God, for your love.

Hold your hands together in prayer; then stretch your arms in front of you.

Help us, Jesus, to love.

Hold your hands together in prayer; blow into them.

Come to me, Spirit of truth.

Final Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and 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.

Thank you for joining us today.

Going Deeper

Bible Notes

This passage follows last week's reading. Jesus expands on what he said about following in his way by explaining how we put the idea into action: by loving Jesus and keeping his commandments.

This relationship between loving Jesus and keeping his commandments is not a case of 'prove that you love me!'. Rather, it is Jesus explaining how loving him enables us to keep his commandments - a reminder that Jesus' commands are all rooted in a loving relationship: loving God and loving others.

Jesus also explains that we are not expected to do this on our own; we have the Holy Spirit as our 'advocate'. The Greek word literally means the one 'called to your side' and could equally be translated as 'intercessor', 'counsellor' or 'intermediary'. Crucially, the term means someone who will never desert us in our hour of need. This then flows on naturally to discussing our relationship with Jesus and with the Father; this is all bound up in that oneness with God that ensures that we are not left on our own.

Questions for Reflection



- How might this image speak of relationship?
- How easy is it to follow Jesus' command to offer unconditional and practical love, following his example?
- What sort of things do you regularly do for other people, just because you love them?

Practical love

The commands that Jesus urges us to keep are practical and everyday in nature. The current lockdown and social distancing rules have resulted in many examples of love in action, and also highlighted situations crying out for love to be expressed in a practical way. Look (using the internet, perhaps?) for examples in your locality or network of contacts. Can you find one or two ideas to pursue further - either on your own, or as a household?

Live your faith

Wherever you go this week, look for examples of Jesus' command being fulfilled, and opportunities to demonstrate love in action. If you can, do it.

A personal prayer

I am your child, O God:
Help me always to show love,
and fill me with the Spirit of truth. Amen

Name

Activity time

John 14.15-21

Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us for ever.



Colour in every section that has a dot, to reveal what today's passage is all about.



Family time

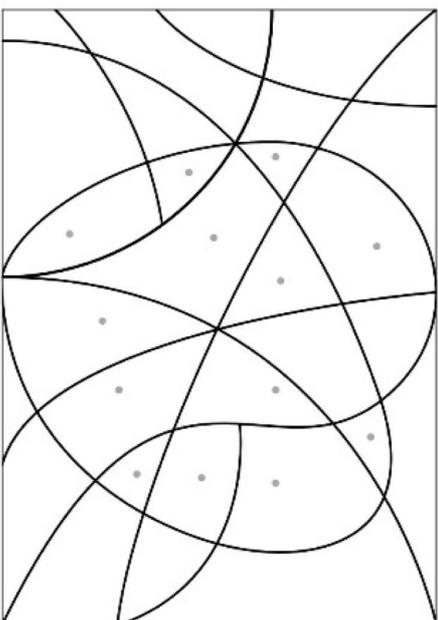
Talk Why does Jesus say that we show we love him by doing what he asks?

Do Make something tasty and give it to someone who lives on their own, to show that they are loved.

Pray Jesus, thank you that you love us. We want to show that we love you by doing what you ask and loving other people. Holy Spirit, thank you that you are always with us. Help us to love other people. Amen.



Unscramble the letters to complete the two important missing words from today's Bible passage.



evlo tmedannmso

'If you _____ me, you

will keep my _____,

ROOTS children's sheet

17-23 May 2020



Fit the right words into the summary of today's Bible passage.

- Jesus
- love
- friends
- commandments
- Holy Spirit
- work

_____ told his friends that if they
 loved him, they would follow him by
 keeping his _____. Jesus' biggest
 commandment was to _____ other
 people. Jesus sent the _____
 to his _____ to help them love others.
 When the Holy Spirit lives in us, and
 we love other people, they see Jesus at
 _____!