



# 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**

#### Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through 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

As sisters and brothers in God's family, we come together to ask God for forgiveness.

**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,  
forgive us all that is past  
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 for the fourth Sunday after Trinity

# 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's reflection is from the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester, on our Gospel passage, Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23. Thank you to him and the Diocese of Oxford for making this available to us for streaming.*

Since his ordination in 1975 Bishop Colin has served parishes, people and groups humbly. He currently supports about 200 churches in Oxfordshire. He also has strong links with groups, such as Creation Theatre Company, Oxford Inspires and Bible Reading Fellowship. Nationally he has a remit for the Church of England in connection with chaplaincy in detention/removal centres and also with the police.

## The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'

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, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise holy Father, heavenly King almighty and eternal God through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word through him you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us Your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever 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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, This, our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father Almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
Be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

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 one bread.**

*We are invited to make spiritual communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or prayers for this. So you are invited to come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to close your eyes, or to look at a picture; to pause the recording; to keep silence, or share in this next hymn - 'O Thou who camest from above' sung by Keble College Choir, directed by Gavin Plumley*

## Prayer after Communion

*We say together*

**In darkness and in light,  
in trouble and in joy,  
help us, heavenly Father,  
to trust your love,  
to serve your purpose  
and to praise your name:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## The Dismissal

### 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**

**Thank you for joining us today.**