

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



## Welcome to this Family Communion Service

### The Gathering

#### Welcome & Notices



Stoke Poges Church

Our family is growing.

## Baby Steps

A new group for new parents.

Tuesdays 10am @ St Andrew's Chapel.

Stories and action songs for parents with babies 0-18 months.

Starts 22nd September 2020

[www.stokepogeschurch.org](http://www.stokepogeschurch.org) [f@stokepogeschurch](https://www.facebook.com/stokepogeschurch)

# AlphaOnline

New course starting Thursday 24th September  
@ 7:45pm ... let us know you are coming  
RSVP: [alpha@stokepogeschurch.org](mailto:alpha@stokepogeschurch.org)



**Harvest Festival**  
**St Giles'**  
**Sun 3rd October**  
**11am**

#### Opening Prayer

Lord God,  
we all belong to your kingdom  
and we bring our different lives and experiences  
to worship you today, the true and living God.  
**Amen.**

Songs    **Be still my soul & Cornerstone**

Be still, my soul: The Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: Thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Thru thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: Thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

In you I rest, in you I found my hope  
In you I trust, you never let me go  
I place my life within your hands alone  
Be still my soul

Be still, my soul: The hour is hastened on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: When change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.  
In you I rest, in you I found my hope  
In you I trust, you never let me go  
I place my life within your hands alone  
Be still my soul  
(x2)

Be still my soul  
(x3)

Written by: JEAN SIBELIUS, K VON SCHLEGEL, Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Lyrics Licensed & Provided  
by [LyricFind](#) - Performed by Lindsey Mackie, 2020

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name  
(x2)

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

He is Lord, Lord of all,

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

When he shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh, may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless, I stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all  
(x2)

Songwriters: Eric Liljero / Jonas Myrin / Reuben Morgan / Edward Mote / William Batchelder Bradbury  
Performed by Lindsey Mackie, 2020

### 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*

**Almighty God,**

**we don't always know how we got to where we are,  
and we certainly don't always know where we are going.**

**We don't always choose the right path,  
and we certainly don't always follow it;  
we don't always deal well with the struggles of life,  
and we don't always give thanks for the joys of life either.**

**Sadly, we don't always think of the effects that our choices  
cause to others, near and far.**

**We are too often selfish,  
wanting what we want no matter what the cost to others.**

**Almighty God, forgive us, reassure us  
and cradle us within your forgiveness.  
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

**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**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

Reading Philippians 1.21-30 read by Kate Holliday

**21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24** but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that



through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

**27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God. **29** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, **30** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

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

### Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

*cf. Phillipians 2.6-11*

Intercessions     written and said by Deb Whittaker

In faith we pray ...     **We pray to you O God.**

### Song     **Dear Lord and Father of mankind**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise,  
*in deeper reverence, praise.*

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,

let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee  
*rise up and follow thee.*  
O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love,  
*interpreted by love!*

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace,  
*the beauty of thy peace.*

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm,  
*O still, small voice of calm!*

Author: John Greenleaf Whittier (1872); Performed by Lindsey Mackie, 2020.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times, it may seem strange to 'share the Peace.' But peace is from the heart and from God. God's peace in the Spirit moves among us and unites us, physically distanced yet one in the Body of Christ.*

### 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

**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

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*We are invited to make a spiritual communion with God who comes to meet us where we are. As we make our spiritual communion together please listen to 'As the Deer pants'*

### Prayer after communion

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with our perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And we say together ...

**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

## The Dismissal

Song      **Great are you Lord**

You give life, You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore  
Every heart that is broken  
Great are You, Lord

*It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only*

You give life, You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore  
Every heart that is broken  
Great are You, Lord

*It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only*

*It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only*

All the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing  
Great are You, Lord!

**repeat x 3**

*It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise*

*It's Your breath in our lungs*

So we pour out our praise  
To You only

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
To You only

Great are you Lord  
Great are you Lord  
Great are you Lord

Songwriters: David Leonard / Jason Ingram / Leslie Jordan © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC; Performed by  
Lindsey Mackie, 2020

#### 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 to love and serve the Lord our God  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Thank you for joining us today.

#### Note

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

# Going Deeper

This week's reading: **Philippians 1.21-30**

## Bible Notes

Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians around 20-25 years after the resurrection. He had already visited Philippi; he knew the people he was writing to and was fond of them. Throughout the letter, Paul recognises that life as a Christian isn't easy. In Philippi, people struggled with low life expectancy, disability, and slavery. Paul calls for unity in the Spirit, regardless of their standing in society – it is the 'faith of the gospel' that unites them. This call to be found 'standing firm in one spirit' questions the social order of the day, where each person is out for themselves and knows their place in the strict social hierarchy.

Today, we are still living within social rules and hierarchies that tend to value one person over another. We still struggle with issues of life and faith, and with 'doing the right thing'. Throughout all of this, Paul's call for us to stand together and encourage each other, as we face the difficult decisions of life, is as valid today as it ever was

## Questions for Reflection



- Does this image appear to be more about clarity, or confusion?
- When was the last time you really struggled to make a choice?
- How is it helpful to know that Paul struggled with choices, like we do?

## Live your faith

Send a message (e.g. by letter, text, email, phone) to a person, group or cause dear to you that needs support and encouragement at this time to stand firm in the face of obstacles and challenges.

## A personal prayer

In trial and tribulation, God of comfort, be near me.

In loss and devastation, God of grief, grieve with me.

In uncertainty and confusion, God of the way, show me a path.

In want and in need, God of provision, provide for me.

In times of sluggishness and laziness, God of patience, wait for me.

In comfort and in joy, God of love, let me not forget you.

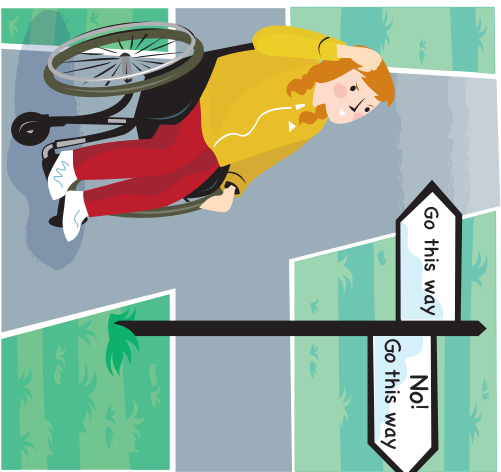
Amen.



Name .....

## **Philippians 1.21-30**

Paul helps us to think about making the right choices and sticking with them when it's hard.



## **Family time**

**Talk** How do we know the right choices to make?

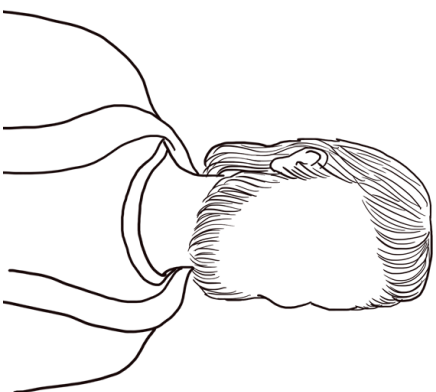
**Do** Watch *Moana* [U]. Moana chooses to take on a daring mission to help her people. She keeps going, even when it's hard.

**Pray** Lord Jesus, like Paul, help me to think about other people through the choices I make. **Amen.**

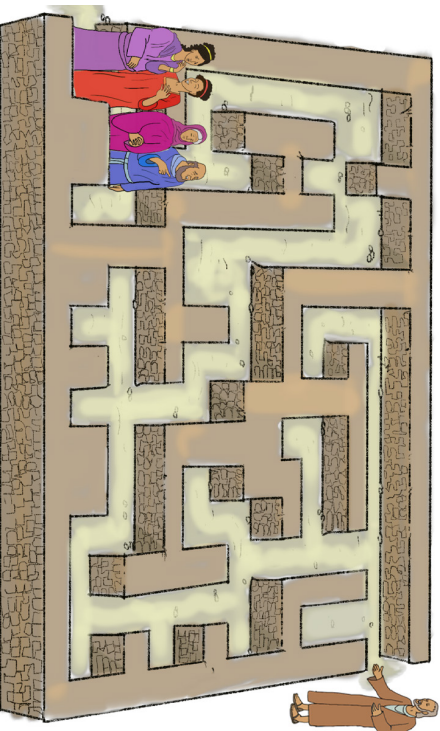
## **Activity time**



Add the expression Paul might be making, as he has to decide whether to stay with his friends or go to be with Jesus.



Find the right path for Paul to be with the Philippians.



## **ROOTS** children's sheet

20-26 September 2020



Choose the right words by circling them in each of these sentences from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

*I don't know what to choose. I could keep on living and doing something useful / wrong. It is a hard / easy choice to make. I want to live / die and be with Christ, because that would be much better / worse. But I know that all of you still want / need me. That's why I am sure I will go away / stay on to help you grow and be OK / happy in your faith.*