

**Holy Communion 9.30am at Christ Church
Sunday 22nd January, 3rd Sunday of Epiphany; Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity**

Welcome and gathering worship

God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you. Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may glorify you. Amen

Flames – We pray for our children and their leaders as they go out.

***Song:* Come, now is the time to worship**

Prayer of penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ says, ‘A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.’ Let us confess to almighty God our failure to accept his love and to share it with others.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another, in thought, and word, and deed. We are truly sorry for our pride, and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love. We repent of our narrow-mindedness, of our bitterness and our prejudices. Pardon and forgive us, save us and renew us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of forgiveness

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.**

Song: Speak, O Lord, as we come to you

Collect prayer for today:

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world. Forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

Song: The Lord is my light, my light and salvation; in Him I trust, in Him I trust.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew; **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 4: 12-23

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Our belief

We say together in faith:

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 of intercession

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

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

Offertory Song: I will offer up my life

The Communion

God of power and love, by your Holy Spirit, draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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.**

...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.

...Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

...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

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.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, Eat in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We share bread and wine together

During the sharing of communion there will be an opportunity for prayer for healing. If you would like prayer or a simple blessing then please move to the 'prayer place' to the left of the dais where people are ready to pray with you.

Prayer after communion

Eternal God and Father whose Son at supper prayed that his disciples might be one, as he is one with you: draw us closer to him, that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that he is Lord, to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Banns of Marriage and Notices

Closing hymn: Be thou my vision

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, teach you to walk in his way more trustfully, to accept his truth more faithfully, and to share his life more lovingly; that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

One in heart and one in mind, and empowered by the Spirit, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ, Amen