

Holy Communion Service 18th February 2024

Welcome and gathering worship

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

This is the day that the Lord has made; **We will rejoice and be glad in it**

Song/Hymn:

BLESS THE LORD, O my soul, O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus x 2

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

We prepare our hearts and confess our sins

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him. *1 Cor 2:9,10*

We keep a time of quiet reflection.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.**

Collect prayer for today

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 3:18-end

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

Gradual Hymn:

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES,

Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord;

Emmanuel, God is with us,

Blessèd Redeemer, Living Word.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:9-15

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn:

O LORD, THE CLOUDS ARE GATHERING,

The fire of judgement burns,

How we have fallen!

O Lord, You stand appalled to see

Your laws of love so scorned,

And lives so broken.

(Men) Have mercy, Lord,

(Women) Have mercy, Lord,

(Men) Forgive us, Lord,

(Women) Forgive us, Lord,

(All) Restore us, Lord, Revive Your church again.

(Men) Let justice flow

(Women) Let justice flow

(Men) Like rivers,

(Women) Like rivers,

(All) And righteousness like a Never failing stream.

O Lord, over the nations now
Where is the dove of peace?
Her wings are broken.
O Lord, while precious children starve
The tools of war increase;
Their bread is stolen.

O Lord, dark powers are poised to flood
Our streets with hate and fear;
We must awaken!
O Lord, let love reclaim the lives
That sin would sweep away
And let Your kingdom come.

Yet, O Lord, Your glorious cross shall tower
Triumphant in this land,
Evil confounding.
Through the fire Your suffering church display
The glories of her Christ:
Praises resounding!

Our belief

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

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

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

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

Offertory Hymn:

JESUS, STAND AMONG US

At the meeting of our lives;
Be our sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes.
O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

So to You we're gathering
Out of each and every land;
Christ the love between us
At the joining of our hands.
O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

The Communion

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us; nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son. **You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.
He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son. **As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

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.**

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 church where people are ready to pray with you.

Prayer after communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our children share what they have learnt

Notices

Closing hymn:

WE'LL WALK THE LAND

With hearts on fire,
And every step
Will be a prayer.
Hope is rising,
New day dawning,
Sound of singing
Fills the air.

Two thousand years,
And still the flame
Is burning bright
Across the land.
Hearts are waiting,
Longing, aching,
For awakening
Once again.

*Let the flame burn brighter
In the heart of the darkness,
Turning night to glorious day.
Let the song grow louder
As our love grows stronger,
Let it shine, let it shine.*

We'll walk for truth,
Speak out for love;
In Jesus' name
We shall be strong,
To lift the fallen,
To save the children,
To fill the nation
With Your song.

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and all those you love in time and in eternity **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen