

Sunday 17th March 2024: Holy Communion Service

Welcome

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

Let us recognize his presence with us.

Silence is kept.

Lord, speak to us

that we may hear your word.

Move among us

that we may behold your glory.

Receive our prayers

that we may learn to trust you.

Amen.

Flames – *we pray our children and their leaders as they go*

Lent appeal

This Lent we are supporting Bridgeway Mission and their work with refugees and asylum seekers here in Colchester. You may recall that Souzan and her husband, Raied, joined us for our service on 4th February and they told us about their mission to share God's love with people from Middle Eastern and Eastern backgrounds – connecting with them and empowering them as they adjust to life in the UK.

The charity's needs are spiritual, financial and practical so you may wish to consider volunteering with them and praying for them. Please speak to me if you would like me to put you in contact with Souzan. BUT we also have the opportunity to support them financially.

Those on our mailing list received details of how to give financially a couple of weeks ago and this email will go out again tomorrow in case that is helpful.

This morning there is an additional opportunity to give financially to Bridgeway Mission as all the donations given in cash or via our card

*machine today will go towards our Lent Appeal. You will be find the card machine and donation container – **CHECK WHERE** – after the service so please consider donating what you can today.*

We say sorry to God and one another

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments... my wrong doing, thinking and speaking... the hurts I have done to others... and the good I have left undone...

O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We are forgiven

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Songs

AMAZING GRACE! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD,

You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God;
And You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came
To the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
(Repeat)

The church's prayer for today:

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31.31-34

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

Gospel Reading

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

John 12.20-33

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

Sermon

Song

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,

The world behind me, the cross before me;

The world behind me, the cross before me;

No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow,

Though none go with me, still I will follow,

Though none go with me, still I will follow,

No turning back, no turning back.

I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

No turning back, no turning back.

Prayers of intercession

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

We share Jesus' Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

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

Song

WE STAND AND LIFT UP OUR HANDS,

For the joy of the Lord is our strength.

We bow down and worship Him now;

How great, how awesome is He.

And together we sing,

Everyone sing:

Holy is the Lord God Almighty;

The earth is filled with His glory.

Holy is the Lord God Almighty;

The earth is filled with His glory,

The earth is filled with His glory.

(Repeat verse and chorus)

It's rising up all around, It's the anthem of the Lord's renown.

It's rising up all around, It's the anthem of the Lord's renown.

Chorus

The earth is filled with His glory.

We share Communion

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, we would love to pray with you, or offer a simple blessing. If you would like this then please head to your left where people are ready to pray with you.

Prayer after communion

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Notices

Song

IN CHRIST ALONE my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

The Blessing

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; 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 peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen.