

The Church of England  
in Central Windsor

# SUNG EUCCHARIST

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Sixth Sunday of Easter



**A warm welcome to St Stephen & St Agnes Church  
for our service today**

On most Sundays we offer Sunday Club during the service.  
Children aged 3-11 are welcome to gather at the back of the  
church as we sing the Gloria in Excelsis.

Please don't feel embarrassed if babies and small children  
cry or make a noise.

*Please stand for:*

## OPENING HYMN

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God hath brought his Israel  
into joy from sadness:  
loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendour,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection.

Alleluia now we cry  
to our King Immortal,  
who triumphant burst the bars  
of the tomb's dark portal;  
alleluia, with the Son  
God the Father praising;  
alleluia yet again  
to the Spirit raising.

*Please remain standing for :*

## **THE GREETING**

*The priest says*

In the name of the Father†, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All*      **Amen.**

*The priest greets the people*

The Lord be with you

*All*      **and also with you.**

*Please sit for:*

## **WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANY NOTICES**

*Please stand for :*

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

*All*      **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us

*All*      **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven

In your mercy, forgive us.

*All*      **Lord, hear us and help us.**

*The Kyrie Eleison is sung:*

*All*      **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy, Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

## ABSOLUTION

*The priest says*

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.

*All*     **Amen.**

## THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*All*     **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.**

## THE COLLECT

*The priest says:*

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*All*     **Amen**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for:

## FIRST READING

### Acts 10.44–48

10<sup>44</sup> While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.<sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,<sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,<sup>47</sup> 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptising these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?'<sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 98

*The congregation is invited to join with the choir in singing the response*

***All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.***

Sing to the Lord / a new song,  
for he has done mar / vellous things:  
with his own right hand and with his / holy arm,  
he has brought de / liverence. **Response**

The Lord has made known his / righteous love.  
in the sight of / all mankind,  
and his faithful / ness and truth  
toward the house of / Is-ra-el. **Response**

All the ends of the / earth have seen,  
the salvation / of our God:  
let all the world be / glad in him,  
sing, rejoice and / give him thanks. **Response**

Let music sound up / on the harp,  
let psalms be offered / to his praise:  
with trumpets and with / songs of joy  
shout the praise of / God our King. **Response**

## SECOND READING

### 1 John 5.1–6

5 <sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.<sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome,<sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.<sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for:*

### Gradual Hymn

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love

*Please remain standing for:*

## GOSPEL READING

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings:*

Alleluia, alleluia

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people  
and kindle in them the fire of your love

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **John 15.9–17**

Jesus said to his disciples

15<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.<sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.<sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you.<sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.<sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.<sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit for:*

**SERMON**

*Please stand for :*

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*Let us declare before God the faith of the church in which, we pray, we may all find grace to grow.*

*All* **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**

*Please sit for:*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*These responses may be used*

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*All* Lord hear us  
**Lord graciously hear us**

*And at the end*

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

### **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*Please stand for:*

#### **THE PEACE**

God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has  
given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



*You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.*

*The offertory collection will be brought to the altar to be blessed.  
It will be used for the ministry, mission and outreach of the church.  
Please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are able to do so.*

*If you give regularly via the collection when you attend Sunday worship in one of our churches, but are not with us every week, have you considered giving through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very easy to do. Details are in the weekly Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or speak to any of our churchwardens*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou for ever will be.  
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand has provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
*Refrain***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
*Refrain***

## Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The priest takes the bread and wine.*

Heavenly Father,  
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,  
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds  
as we offer our lives in your service;  
for Jesus Christ's sake.

*All*      **Amen**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

*All* Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All* 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you  
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.  
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,  
and has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he has destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

*All* **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.

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

*All*

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, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Stephen,  
St Agnes, St John the Baptist and all the saints,  
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.

*All*

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

*All* **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.**

## AGNUS DEI

*All* **Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

*The priest says the invitation to communion*

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

**All Amen.**

*If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you so we know you wish to receive a blessing.*

*Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

*During the administration of communion the following will be sung*

**Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now, to be thine, yea thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

**Anthem:** Since by man came death (*Handel*)

#### **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **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**

*Members of Sunday Club are invited to show their work to the congregation*

#### **THE DISMISSAL**

#### **THE BLESSING**

May Christ,  
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,  
fill you with his new life:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## Final Hymn

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace,  
and the mountains and the hills  
shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy  
and the trees of the field  
shall clap, shall clap their hands.

*And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
and you'll go out with joy.*

**Repeat**

*The priest says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

*The ministers and people depart.*

**Please stay for refreshments which will be served after the service.**

Those who live in the parish of this church or who are on the Electoral Roll are reminded that the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) takes place after the service this morning.

Please grab yourself a tea or coffee from the hall and come back into church for this important meeting which will begin at 11.30

## **Ascension Day 9<sup>th</sup> May**

We are delighted to have the Stockholm Cantus choir with us for our Sung Eucharist on Ascension Day evening at 7.30pm. The choir will also be singing at a concert in Windsor Parish Church on Saturday **11<sup>th</sup> May** at 3pm before their return to Sweden on Sunday.

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt “at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that you will return in the future.  
We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask!  
You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

**Web Site:**  
[www.windsorchurches.org.uk](http://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)

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