

Parish of Central Windsor

SUNG EUCHARIST

Sunday 25th May 2025

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 are welcome to gather at the front of the church
after the Collect on page 4 before they go out to their activities
with our Sunday Club leaders.

If you have babies or small children with you, you are welcome to
stay in church. Please don't be embarrassed if they cry or make a
noise

Please stand for :

OPENING HYMN

God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Richard Bewes (1934-2019)
Psalm 46

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 Sunday Club are invited to gather together at the front of the church
before going to their activities.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for:

FIRST READING

Acts 16.9–15

16 ⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’

¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptised, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain sitting for:

PSALM 67

The congregation is invited to join in with the response

Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you

God be gracious to us and bless us and
make his face to / shine upon us,
that your way may be / known upon earth,
your saving power a / mong all nations.
Let the peoples praise / you, O God;
let all the / peoples praise you. ***Response***

O let the nations rejoice / and be glad,
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations / upon earth.
Let the peoples praise / you, O God;
let all the / peoples praise you. ***Response***

Then shall the earth bring / forth her increase,
and God, our own / God, will bless us.
God / will bless us,
and all the ends of the / earth shall fear him. ***Response***

SECOND READING

Revelation 21.10, 22 – 22.5

21¹⁰ In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22 ¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for :

Gradual Hymn

**God of mercy, God of grace
show the brightness of thy face
shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
fill thy church with light divine,
and thy saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.**

**Let the people praise thee, Lord;
be by all that live adored
let the nations shout and sing
glory to their Saviour King;
at thy feet their tribute pay,
and thy holy will obey.**

Let the people praise thee, Lord;
earth shall then her fruits afford;
God to man his blessing give,
man to God devoted live;
all below, and all above,
one in joy, and light, and love.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)
Psalm 67

Please remain standing for:

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings:

Alleluia, alleluia
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All **Alleluia, alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

John 5.1–9

5 ¹ After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ ⁷ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ ⁸ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit for:

SERMON

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 or kneel 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.**

BANNS OF MARRIAGE ARE READ

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. 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.*

Have you considered regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very easy to do and is the most efficient method of giving. Details are in the weekly Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or can be accessed via the QR code. One off donations can also be made this way.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blest,
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice opprest:
I know not, oh, I know not,
what joys await us there;
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Sion,
conjubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng:
the Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessèd
are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David;
and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph,
the song of them that feast;
and they, who with their Leader
have conquered in the fight,
for ever and for ever
are clad in robes of white.

Oh, sweet and blessed country,
the home of God's elect
Oh, sweet and blessed country,
that eager hearts expect
Jesu, in mercy bring us
to that dear land of rest
who art, with God the Father
And spirit, ever blest

*Bernard of Cluny 12th century
tr J. M. Neale (1818-1866)*

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.

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

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:

*Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary version
as we pray together*

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, *All***
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.

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

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:

**Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.**

**Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.**

**Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.**

**Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.**

**It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
and Jesus call to heaven's perfect peace.**

Edward H. Bickersteth (1825-1906)

ANTHEMS: If ye love me (*Tallis*)

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

Please stand for :

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

God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation:
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth,
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love, and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874-1939)

The priest says

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

The ministers and people depart.

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

**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**

Web Site:
www.windsorchurches.org.uk

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