

Parish of Central Windsor

SUNG EUCHARIST

14th September 2025

Holy Cross Day
(Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity)



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

**Today, the second Sunday of September, is Education Sunday,
a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the
world of education.**

**Children are welcome to gather at the front of the church
after the Collect on page 5 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

**Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up,
the night is behind.
Go down to the city, into the street,
and let's give the message
to the people we meet.**

***So light up the fire
and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return,
take seeds of his Spirit,
let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus,
let his love show.***

**Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on;
it never goes down.
The Light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness
are needing a friend.
*So light up the fire...***

**Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come,
the sun came to die.
The evening draws on,
the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.
*So light up the fire...***

Sue Mc Clellan, John Paculabo & Keith Ryecroft

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

The priest says

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Romans 5.8

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and the Father:
Lord, have mercy
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
Christ, have mercy
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
Lord, have mercy
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Please remain standing to sing the Kyrie Eleison

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.**

Please remain standing for:

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 introduces a period of silent prayer with the words:

Let us pray

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

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

Numbers 21.4–9

21⁴ The Israelites had to go around the territory of Edom, so when they left Mount Hor, they headed south toward the Red Sea. But along the way, the people became so impatient⁵ that they complained against God and said to Moses, “Did you bring us out of Egypt, just to let us die in the desert? There's no water out here, and we hate this awful food!”

⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous snakes that bit and killed many of them.

⁷Some of the people went to Moses and admitted, “It was wrong of us to insult you and the Lord. Now please ask him to make these snakes go away.” Moses prayed, ⁸and the Lord answered, “Make a snake out of bronze and place it on top of a pole. Anyone who gets bitten can look at the snake and be saved from death.”⁹ Moses obeyed the Lord. And all of those who looked at the bronze snake lived, even though they had been bitten by the poisonous snakes.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain sitting for:

PSALM 22 vv22-28

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

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

I will tell of your name / to my people;
in the midst of the congregation/ will I praise you.
Praise the Lord, / you that fear him;
O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O / seed of Israel.

Response

For he has / not despised
nor abhorred the suffering / of the poor;
neither has he hid / den his face from them;
but when they cried to / him he heard them. ***Response***

From you comes his praise in the great / congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of / those that fear you.
The poor shall eat / and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall / live for ever. ***Response***

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn / to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall / bow before him.
For the kingdom / is the Lord's
and he rules o / ver the nations.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

SECOND READING

Philippians 2.6–11

² Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God.
⁷ Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. ⁸ Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross. ⁹ Then God gave Christ the highest place and honoured his name above all others. ¹⁰ So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. ¹¹ And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree, "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand for :

Gradual Hymn

1 A new commandment I give unto you

**That you love one another
as I have loved you**

**That you love one another
as I have loved you**

**2 By this shall all know that you
are my disciples,**

**if you have love for another;
by this shall all know that you are
my disciples:
if you have love for another.**

Please remain standing for:

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia, alleluia

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

John 3.13–17

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

3 ¹³ ‘No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’

At the end the reader says:

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

Please sit for:

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **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.**

Please sit or kneel for:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

<i>All</i>	Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.	<i>All</i>	Lord hear us Lord graciously hear us
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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 PUBLISHED

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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 this QR code.
One off donations can also be made this way.



OFFERTORY HYMN

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!***

**Come, let us, follow where our Captain trod
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God
*Lift high the cross,***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree
as thou hast promised, draw us onto thee:
*Lift high the cross,***

**Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell
*Lift high the cross,***

**From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:
*Lift high the cross,***

**Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace
*Lift high the cross,***

**For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne**

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!***

*G. W. Kitchen (1827-1912)
M. R. Newbolt (1874-1956)*

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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

Merciful God,
through the death of your beloved Son
you transformed an instrument of shame
into a sign of hope and glory.
Receive all we bring before you this day,
and renew us in the mystery of his love;
through the same Jesus Christ,
the Lord of glory

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.

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong.
You made us and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

You sent your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:

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.**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

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

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
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 or simply bow your head as you approach the altar 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:

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the cross of Christ, my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown!**

**His dying crimson, like a robe
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Galatians 6.14

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

ANTHEM: O Saviour of the world (Goss)

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree
and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our hope,
who reigns as Lord, 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**

BLESSING OF BAGS

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

Please stand for :

THE DISMISSAL

The priest says

THE BLESSING

The priest says

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you this day and always.

All **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**One more step along the world I go
one more step along the world I go
from the old things to the new
keep me traveling along with you**

***And it's from the old I travel to the new
keep me traveling along with you***

**Round the corners of the world I turn
more and more about the world I learn
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me**

And it's from the old ..

**As I travel through the bad and good
keep me traveling the way I should
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know**

And it's from the old ..

**Give me courage when the world is rough
keep me loving though the world is tough
leap and sing in all I do
keep me traveling along with you**

And it's from the old ..

**You are older than the world can be
you are younger than the life in me
ever old and ever new
keep me traveling along with you**

***And it's from the old I travel to the new
keep me traveling along with you***

R. T. Brooks (1918-1985)

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.

**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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