

Parish of Central Windsor

SUNG EUCHARIST

Sunday 25th October 2026

Bible Sunday
(Last Sunday after Trinity)



**A warm welcome to St John the Baptist Church
for our service today especially to the family and friends
of Ivy and Sienna attending for their baptisms**

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

Please stand 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 :

OPENING HYMN

**Angel voices, ever singing,
round thy throne of light,
angel harps, for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee,
and confess thee
Lord of might.**

**Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us
and wilt hear us?
yea, we can.**

**Yea we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.**

**In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer,
all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices,
in our choicest
psalmody.**

**Honour, glory, might and merit,
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity!
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.**

Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Please stand for:

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The priest says

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and
malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are heartily sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen**

The Kyrie Eleison is sung:

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

THE COLLECT

The priest says:

Let us pray

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

Please sit for:

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8.1–4a, 8–12

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'¹¹ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.'¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 119 vv9-16

The congregation is invited to sing the response in the bold print

Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

How shall young people / cleanse their way
To keep themselves according / to your word?
With my whole heart / have I sought you;
O let me not go astray from / your commandments. **Response**

Your words have I hidden with / In my heart,
That I should not / sin against you.
Blessed are / you, O Lord;
O teach / me your statutes. **Response**

With my lips have / I been telling
Of the judgements/ of your mouth.
I have taken greater delight in the way / of your testimonies
than in all man / ner of riches. **Response**

I will meditate on your commandments
And contem / plate your ways.
My delight shall be / in your statutes
And I will not for / get your word.
Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3.12-17

³ ¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for:

Gradual Hymn

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.
the heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.
the Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all the heart
must bear the longest part.
let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.**

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Please remain standing for:

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Matthew 24.30–35

Jesus said to his disciples:

24 ³⁰ ‘The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ³² ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit for:

SERMON

LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Ivy, Sienna, their parents and godparents come forward.

The priest addresses the whole congregation

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

We thank God for these children,
who have come to be baptised today.

Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support them as they begin their journey of faith?

All **We will.**

Will you help them to live and grow within God's family?

All **We will.**

The president then addresses the parents and godparents

God knows each of us by name and we are his.

Parents and godparents, you speak for these children today.

Will you pray for them, and help them to follow Christ?

All **We will.**

THE DECISION

The priest addresses Ivy and Sienna's parents and godparents

We all wander far from God and lose our way:

Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.

In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The priest makes the sign of the cross on Ivy's forehead saying,

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross
Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his forever.

The priest makes the sign of the cross on Sienna's forehead saying,

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross
Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his forever.

All **Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil and
remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ

All **Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

The priest stands before the water of baptism and says

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptised in the River Jordan,

where your Spirit came upon him

and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

that those who are baptised in it

may be cleansed in the water of life,

and, filled with your Spirit,

may know that they are loved as your children,

safe in Christ for ever.

All **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The priest addresses the congregation

Let us affirm with those being baptised today our common faith
in Jesus Christ

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.**

BAPTISM

The priest baptises saying

Ivy Mara, I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Then the priest baptises saying

Sienna Grace, I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

You have been clothed with Christ
As many as are baptised into Christ have put on Christ

May God who has received you by baptism into his Church
pour upon you the riches of his grace that within the company of
Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing
Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen**

WELCOME

The priest introduces the welcome saying,

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Ivy Mara and Sienna Grace, by one Spirit
we are all baptised into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Let the peace of
Christ rule your hear

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

**I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon the sons of men,
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary
when Bethl'em's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.**

**I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.**

**I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.**

**I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when every heart with love and joy is filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'**

William Young Fullerton (1857-1932)

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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

Lord Jesus, you nourish us at the table of your word and the table of
your sacrament; as we feed on you, the bread of life,
may we daily grow into your likeness

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.

And now we give you thanks
because you have given us the Holy Scriptures
to instruct us in the wisdom that leads to salvation
through faith in Jesus Christ

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 John the Baptist, St Stephen, St Agnes 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

The priest says

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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,**
because we all share in one bread.

AGNUS DEI

All **Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus redeemer 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:

**Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with all, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love, is his way.
*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.***

**Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve;
love, only love, is his mark.
*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord...***

Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
'This is my body, this is my blood.'
Love, only love, is his sign.
Richer than gold is the love of my Lord...

Love is his sign, love is his news,
"Do this," he said, "lest you forget
all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood."
Love, only love, is his news.
Richer than gold is the love of my Lord...

Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own, chosen and called,
brothers and sisters, parents and kin.
Love, only love, is his name.
Richer than gold is the love of my Lord...

Love is his name, love is his law.
Hear his command, all who are his:
"Love one another, I have loved you."
Love, only love, is his law.
Richer than gold is the love of my Lord...

Love is his law, love is his word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one;
love, only love, is his word.
*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

Luke Connaughton (1917-1979)

ANTHEM: Come, my way, my truth, my life (Vaughan Williams)

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

The priest says

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever
Amen.

All

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**

GIVING OF LIGHTED CANDLE

Lighted candles are given to Ivy and Sienna
God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
Ivy and Sienna you have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand for:

THE BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
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

**Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.**

Ye blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race
and now, from sin released,
behold your Saviour's face,
his praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good or ill,
who ever lives!

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love!
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise!

*Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
and J. H. Gurney (1802-1862)*

The priest says

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

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

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.

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

**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**

**Our 10.00am service next Sunday, 1st November,
will be at All Saints’ Church, Frances Road**

WEB SITE:
www.windsorchurches.org.uk

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