

Welcome to our Holy Communion service

at St Mary's, Shirehampton

Sunday 12th July 2026

Call to Worship:

We are not just once in a while friends.

We are the family of God.

We are not just a cosy club.

We are the body of Christ.

We are not just strangers meeting.

We are temples of the Holy Spirit

We are not here by accident.

Father God has called us to worship

We are not just passing time.

Jesus wants us to know him better.

We are not just doing the same old thing.

The Holy Spirit has some special words for us.

Hymn:

1 Lead us, heav'nly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing ev'ry blessing
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heav'nly joy,
love with ev'ry passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791 – 1867)
CCL Licence Number 5935

Call to Reconciliation:

We could offer seeds of hope, but don't.

We could help a friend with a difficult problem, but won't.

We could smooth the way for someone stumbling through life, but can't.

Let us confess our harvest of sin to our God, as we pray together, saying

**We know the seeds we have sown, anger which springs from our flinty hearts;
hurtful words which wrap their thorny briars around a friend's kindness;
passion which poisons an innocent relationship.**

Forgive us, Loving God, and have mercy.

Your grace can turn our fallow hearts into rich fields of love.

**Your hope can smooth the rocks in our way,
so we can go to be reconciled to another.**

**Your love for us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
can untangle the thorny mess we have made of our lives.**

Bless us with these gifts, we pray.

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Gloria:

**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:

**Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

First Reading: *Romans 8: 1 - 11*

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

1 Lord Jesus Christ
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's Son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ
now and ev'ry day,
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you.
Into our lives your pow'r breaks through,
living Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you,
live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your pow'r breaks through,
living Lord.

Patrick Appleford (b. 1925)
CCL Licence Number 5935

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

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

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Affirmation of Faith:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Intercessions:

The Peace:

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you are called to peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn:

1 Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up,
the night is behind.
Go down in 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.*

2 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 our friend.

3 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,
and his Spirit is near.

*Sue McClellan (b.1951), John Paculabo (b.1946) & Keith Ryecroft (b. 1949)
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Invitation to the Table:

This is not my table or this church's table,
but this is the Lord's table.

You are invited here by the one who loves you, pushes you,
and will never leave or give up on you.

Come to this table of the one who sees past our limitations.

Come and be nourished and made whole.

The Eucharistic Prayer:

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

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 indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

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

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you,
Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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 forever, Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

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.

Giving of 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

Communion is shared:

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord God,
you feed us with the living bread from heaven;
renew our faith, increase our hope,
and strengthen our love.

Teach us to hunger for Christ who is the true and living bread,
and to live by every word that comes from your mouth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Blessings:

Notices:

Birthdays:

Hymn:

Jubilate, everybody,
Serve the Lord in all your ways, and
Come before His presence singing,
Enter now His courts with praise.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
And His mercy everlasting.
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo.

*Fred Dunn
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[sing through 4 times]

Sending:

Now go forth with God's hope!

We have put flesh on our faith and will go to serve others.

Now go forth to fill others with Christ's Light!

We will go to call others to new life, wiping away their tears.

Now go forth with the steadfast love of the Spirit!

We will go to share that hope for which all people long.

Blessing:

May the God of love touch your hearts

and fill your lips with praise for him

that the gospel story will be told anew to all you meet.

And the blessing of God almighty

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be with you and remain with you always.

Amen