

**Welcome to our Holy Communion Service
at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Sunday 8th March 2026**

CALL TO WORSHIP

We wait patiently for our God.

We will sing, we will sing new songs of the One who calls us here.

We will not chase after other gods.

We will sing, we will sing new songs of the One in whom we can trust.

We will tell of all God has done for us.

We will sing, we will sing new songs of the One whose salvation is for all.

HYMN

1 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.

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

3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingling down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

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

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
CCL Licence Number 5935*

CONFESSIO

Lord God, we come to you carrying a pack on our backs.

It's full of things people do which spoil the world you have created.

Lord, we are sorry ...

We are sad and sorry.

Lack of justice, lack of love,

cold hearts and violent tempers –

these are things which divide families, communities and nations.

We see it in the news, and in places where we live, work and play.

Lord, we are sorry ...

We are sad and sorry.

We are sad and sorry too for the wrong in our own lives.

We forget to listen to your story.

We do not answer when you call us to follow you.

Lord, we are sorry ...

We are sad and sorry.

Let's listen for the sound of God's forgiveness in the silence.

(Short silence)

In Christ Jesus, God forgives us. Let us forgive each other. Let us forgive ourselves.

Stand with me. *(All stand)*

Let's arise now as people made new by the loving kindness of God.

Amen.

We raise hands and lift them saying

We are forgiven!

COLLECT

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Psalm 95

At the end of the reading the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

1 Friend of sinners, Lord of truth,
I am falling in love with you.
Friend of sinners, Lord of truth,
I have fallen in love with you.

*Jesus, I love your name,
the name by which we're saved.
Jesus, I love your name,
the name by which we're saved.*

2 Friend of sinners, Lord of truth,
I am giving my life to you.
Friend of sinners, Lord of truth,
I have given my life to you.

*Matt Redman
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GOSPEL READING

John 4: 5 - 42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
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

please stand

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

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

HYMN

1 Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
hark the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

3 Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

2 Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, not questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

4 Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne;
thou within the veil hast entered
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both priest and victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)
CCL Licence Number 5935

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.

Like a tent in the wilderness
the table of God stands open and ready
as a place of sanctuary and safety,
of hospitality and healing.

So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished;
come with your fellow travellers
and find companionship and comfort;

for here, Jesus who knows what it is to wander,
watch and wrestle in desert places
waits to meet us and welcome us in,
offering us rest and restoration,
solace and strength,
for the journey still to come.

Before going out
into the wilderness of the garden,
Jesus sat down to eat and drink with his friends.
To show them the challenge of the way ahead,
and offer them gifts for that journey,

he took bread – sustaining and wholesome –
and poured wine –
earthy and warming –
sharing these as signs of his continuing presence with them
throughout time to come.
He said to those he loved
eat and drink in remembrance of me

And now, remembering that moment,
and recognising that its promise is also for us in this time and this place,
we too share bread and wine
And in that action, we recognise and affirm with joy
that Christ is present with us now,
and throughout time to come;
and we join our voices with those of all creation in the unending song of praise:

**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!**

God of the liminal places,
send down upon us now,
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that same Spirit who drove Jesus into the desert,
that we too may be tempered and strengthened by your presence
and refreshed and renewed through your love.

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 for ever.
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.**

The tent side is open,
the table is set,
and God waits for us to come in from the desert
for a while and be refreshed ...

Communion is received.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God has called us to journey for a season
through the wilderness places;

And so, as Jesus did before us,

we will set out once more

to wander in an uncomfortable landscape and wrestle with its challenges,

that through the tempering action of the Spirit,

we may emerge ready to do the work of the Kingdom.

Amen

BLESSINGS

NOTICES

BIRTHDAYS

HYMN

Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age;
'Our God is all in all'.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

*Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend
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SENDING

Having learned new words from our God,
**we will go to warm others in the bleak midwinter of life,
to whisper to them of grace and hope.**

Having learned new ways to serve from Jesus,
**we will go to clear paths for those lost in oppression,
to wait with those in hospital rooms and job lines.**

Having learned new songs from the Spirit,
**we will go to sing of peace in all the broken places,
to light the way out of the shadows of injustice.**

BLESSING

You are chosen, choose peace.
You are chosen, choose justice.
You are chosen, choose life.
And the blessing of God almighty
Father Son and Holy Spirit be with us
And remain with us always
Amen