

**Welcome to our service of
Holy communion at St Mary's Shirehampton
Sunday 18th October 2026**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here is the place where we can bring our pain and hopes.

For our God carries them with us.

Here is the place where we can listen for our calling.

For Jesus invites us to serve with him in the world.

Here is the place where we are surrounded by grace.

For the Spirit hears our hearts and heals them.

HYMN

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters,

His goodness restores my soul.

2 He guides my way in righteousness,

and He anoints my head with oil,

and my cup, it overflows with joy,

I feast on his pure delights.

3 And though I walk the darkest path,

I will not fear the evil one,

For You are with me, and Your rod and staff

Are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in You alone.

*And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

Stuart Townend

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CONFESSION

God be gracious to us and bless us.

We confess the times when we have not let others feel the warmth of your love shining through us.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

May your ways be heard and seen upon earth.

We acknowledge our blindness to the needs of all who are oppressed or enslaved.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

As we taste your goodness,
we confess the injustices we ourselves have perpetrated,
knowingly and unknowingly,
against those who are invisible and have no voice in this world.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the God who rescues you from your sins,
have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life
through Jesus 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.**

COLLECT

**God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

1 I cannot tell
how He whom angels worship,
should stoop to love
the peoples of the earth,
or why, as shepherd,
He should seek the wand'rer,
with His mysterious promise
of new birth.

But this I know,
that He was born of Mary,
when Bethl'hem's manger
was His only home,
and that He lived at
Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is come.

3 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 ev'ry heart
with perfect love is filled.

But this I know,
the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad
human voices sing,
and earth to heaven,
and heaven to earth, will answer:
'At last the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is King!'

2 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 yet the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is here.

*William Young Fullerton (1857-1932) alt.
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GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22: 15 - 22

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

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

INTERCESSIONS

ending with

Merciful Father

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PEACE

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.
If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

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

HYMN

Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete

Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth

Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love

Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth, yeah

We will shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth

We've been through fire, we've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of His name
We've fallen deeper in love with You
You've burned the truth on our lips

We will shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth
Everybody
We will shout to the north (yeah) and the south
We will sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth

Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly

Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth

We will shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth, yeah

We will shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth
Oh, Lord of heaven and earth
Oh, Lord of heaven and earth
Oh, Lord of heaven and earth

Robin Mark
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THE INVITATION

Here is the table of the Lord,
we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.

Come, when you are fearful,
to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful,
to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful,
and be made whole.
Come, old and young,
there is room for all

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 for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia!

This living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.

Communion is shared.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**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

1 Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)
Trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)
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SENDING

With the love of our God in our hearts,
we will go to welcome the stranger among us
With the brokenness of Jesus having fed us,
we will go to bring healing to others.
With the vulnerability of the Spirit as our guide,
we will serve our neighbours with humility and hope.

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 us
And remain with us always **Amen**