

**Welcome to our service of
Sung Eucharist at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Sunday 1st March 2026**

Call to Worship:

The season of Lent can be barren and lonely
but God goes with us through the wild wilderness.

Our lives are lived in seasons of transitions and transformations.
Lent is a time to ponder God's providence and persistence.

Together, we seek fruitfulness, for it has been promised to us;
the barrenness of Lent will give way to the fruitfulness of Easter.

In this season of penitence and pondering, let us gather before God.

**We come, as a family,
to wait for the Lord with strength and courage.**

Come, let us worship God!

Hymn:

1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance
 he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore,
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930) alt.

Based on the German of Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

CCL number 5935

Call to Confession:

Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives,
and let us offer that truth to God.

Sung

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon:

**New every morning is God's love for us,
and so we are ready to boldly proclaim the Good News:
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!
Amen**

The Collect:

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hearing God's Word *Psalm 121*

please be seated for our reading

At the end of the reading the reader will say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

1 I give You all the honour,
And praise that's due Your name.
For You are the King of Glory,
The creator of all things.

2 As Your spirit moves upon me now,
You meet my deepest need.
And I lift my hands up to Your throne,
Your mercy I've received.

3 You have broken chains that bound me,
You have set this captive free.
I will lift my voice to praise Your name,
For all eternity.

I worship You.

Chorus:

*And I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on my knees.
Yes, I worship You,
I give my life to You,
I fall down on Your knees.*

Marilla Ness

CCL Licence Number 5935

Gospel Reading: *John 3: 1 - 17*

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

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon:

The Creed: *please stand*

**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:

The Peace: *please stand*

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Hymn:

1 Jesus Christ is waiting
waiting in the streets;
no-one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too;
make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

3 Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too;
let my care be active,
healing just like you.

5 Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets;
'Come and walk faith's tightrope,
I will guide your feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few;
walk one step before me,
I will follow you.

2 Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets;
where injustice spirals
and all hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too;
in the kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.

4 Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets;
where each sign of hatred
his strong love defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I feel triumph too;
on suspicion's graveyard
let me dance with you.

*John L Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958)
CCL Licence Number 5935*

The Invitation:

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who seek God, those who love God,
and those who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith,
and you who have little, or are questioning faith.

Come, you who have been here often,
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.

Come, you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.

Come, not because the Church invites you;
it is Christ who invites you to be known, fed, and loved here.

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

(sung)

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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:

(sung)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power, God of might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna, Hosanna, 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 this day 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.

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 shared:

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:

1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand up before his cross,
an instrument of torture
inflicting pain and loss;
transformed by his obedience
to God's redeeming plan,
the cross was overpowered
by Christ, both God and man.

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
be counted as his own;
his gospel of forgiveness
he cannot spread alone.
The love which draws us to him,
he calls us out to share;
he calls us to the margins
to be his presence there.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
in faith and hope be strong,
stand firm for right and justice,
opposed to sin and wrong.
Give comfort to the wounded,
and care for those in pain,
for Christ, in those who suffer,
is crucified again.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
give courage to the weak,
be unashamed to praise him,
be bold his name to speak.
Confront the cross unflinching,
Christ's love has set us free;
he conquered death for ever
and lives eternally.

Jean Holloway (b. 1939)
CCL Licence Number 5935

Sending:

Now go with the Spirit, from the comfort of this place,
so we may go to bring hope to the world.

Now carry the Light of Christ with you,
we will go into the shadows with this gift.

Now trust in God who is always with you,
we will follow that life called discipleship.

Blessing and Dismissal:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
To deny yourselves take up your cross, and follow him;
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen