

Welcome to our Holy Communion service

at St Mary's, Shirehampton

Sunday 13th September 2026

Call to Worship:

When we ask the animals,
they certainly teach us
**what the birds in the heavens,
will always sing loudly;**

When we listen to Earth
**then Earth's voice surely teaches
what fish of the sea make continually clear.**

When we take fierce facts of the climate as 'signs'
**and read 'heaven' as 'sky';
and cherish all trees,**

then we may be wise as the creatures who teach us:
"to God belong wisdom and power!"

*William Henry Draper (1855 - 1933)
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Hymn:

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

4 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Confession:

Dearest God Beloved Sustainer. Compassionate Listener
God-With-Earth; With-the-Poor, With-the-Trampled;

**In our choices, allegiances, silences
we have been part of the wounding of life
including our own;**

We have chased after gold,
after power, after oil;
Trumpeted profligate lies of the prosperous;
**Reaped without sowing or care for the soil:
Though now our complacency has long had its day**

Dearest God Beloved Sustainer. Compassionate Listener
Do hear this:

**We're up to our eyes in today;
discovering good cause to worry
tomorrow will be worse:**

As ecocide, justicide, genocide
make your seas overflow,
make your glaciers melt,
make your seasons awry,
And the rest, which you know:
we pretend that we don't.

God: forgive us!

Christ: remake us!

Spirit: repurpose us!

Absolution:

Sustainer, Beloved, Wild-Wind of life,
Father Son and Spirit
Shows you your place and purpose.

You are forgiven...

both sent and set free to heal

let it be so: AMEN

Gloria – From Church of South India:

**Glory to God,
who has made a covenant
with all living creatures,
and has promised
never to forsake the creation God loves.**

The Collect:

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

First Reading: Psalm 139: 1 - 14

Please sit for the reading

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

1 Such love, pure as the whitest snow;
such love weeps for the shame I know;
such love, paying the debt I owe;
O Jesus, such love.

2 Such love, stilling my restlessness;
such love, filling my emptiness;
such love, showing me holiness;
O Jesus, such love.

3 Such love springs from eternity;
such love, streaming through history;
such love, fountain of life to me;
O Jesus, such love.

*Graham Kendrick (b.1950)
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Gospel Reading: *Matthew 5: 13 - 16*

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

At the end of the reading the reader may say:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Affirmation of Faith:

**We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son
who was slain,
for with his blood he purchased us for God from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit.
The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come'.
Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Prayers:

At the end we pray together

**Merciful Father
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Hymn:

1 I the Lord of Sea and Sky
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

2 I the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

(Final Chorus)

*Here we are, Lord. Is it us, Lord?
We have heard you calling in the night.
We will go, Lord, if you lead us.
We will hold your people in our hearts.*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

3 I the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 6
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Invitation to the Table:

Like the Earth,
we do not own Christ's table which feeds and sustains us.
Yet here, we're welcome:
like those friends Christ first gathered.

Welcome for justice;
fulfilment and love.
Welcome, with prophets, publicans
with eco-warriors and dodgy characters
with those you'd expect and those you don't.

Called to recelbrate;
to be a work of God repurposed as friends of Jesus refreshed by bread and wine
through human hands,
from Earth's own self
on whom, we feed.

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time, you made us in your image.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your 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, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Father,
we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross,
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for
which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
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.**

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.

Communion is shared:

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord of all Creation,
as we have received the bread and wine,
Fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,
so with joy we celebrate your goodness
and commit ourselves to serve you on your earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessings:

Notices:

Birthdays:

Hymn:

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creations revealing Your majesty
From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring
Every creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God

All powerful, untameable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go?
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light?
Yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
None can fathom

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God

All powerful, untameable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God

Incomparable, unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing, God

*Chris Tomlin, Laura Mixon Story.
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You are amazing, God

Sending and Blessing:

God the Father,
who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

Amen

God the Son,
who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

Amen

God the Holy Spirit,
whose breath fills the whole creation,
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.

Amen

and the blessing of God almighty...

Amen