Welcome to our Holy Communion Service

at St Mary's, Shirehampton

Sunday 15th November 2026

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is spirit.
Let us worship him in spirit and truth.
The Lord is with us.
Let us praise his name together.
Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you.
Amen.

HYMN

1 Among us and before us,
Lord, you stand
with arms outstretched
and bread and wine at hand.
Confronting those
unworthy of a crumb,
you ask that to your table
we should come.

2 Who dare say No,
when such is your resolve
our worst to witness,
suffer and absolve,
our best to raise in lives
by God forgiv'n,
our souls to fill on earth
with food from heav'n?

3 Who dare say No,
when such is your intent
to love the selves
we famish and resent,
to cradle our
uncertainties and fear,
to kindle hope as
you in faith draw near?

4 Who dare say No,
when such is your request
that each around your table
should be guest,
that here the ancient word
should live as new
"Take, eat and drink –
all this is meant for you.'?

5 No more we hesitate
and wonder why;
no more we stand indiff'rent,
scared or shy.
Your invitation leads us
to say Yes,
to meet you where you nourish,
heal and bless.

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

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

CONFESSION

God our Father,
we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy:
forgive us and help us.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us 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.

COLLECT

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING – *1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11*
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 Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me
save that thou art;
thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom,
be thou my true word,
I ever with thee
and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father,
and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling,
and I in thy care.

3 Be thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour,
and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter,
and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward,
O Pow'r of my pow'r.

4 Riches I need not,
nor all the world's praise,
thou mine inheritance
through all my days;
thou, and thou only,
the first in my heart,
high King of heaven,
my treasure thou art!

5 High King of heaven
when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me,
O bright heav'n's sun;
Christ of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

Irish (c.8th century) trans. Mary Byrne (1880-1931) and Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)
CCL Licence number 5935

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25: 14 -30

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

ending with:

Merciful Father

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

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 Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name
You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

2 Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Heavenly Father,
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds
as we offer our lives in your service;
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen

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.

Almighty God,
good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

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.

Father of all,
we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables
with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.
This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.
This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is his story.
This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us
and all the world.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord,
we have broken your bread and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

BLESSINGS

NOTICES

BIRTHDAYS

HYMN

Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 6
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CCL Number 5935

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?

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.

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?

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?

SENDING

Go now to where you find friends and neighbours,
as well as family and strangers.
We will share that never-ending love of the Healer of all.

Go now, with that faith which dares to touch the outcast,
with hearts that break for the pain of others.
We will share the compassion of the Friend of the broken.

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**