

Welcome to our Holy Communion Service
at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Sunday 18th May 2025

GREETING

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

GATHERING

Once again we gather,
From different homes and circumstances,
With different dreams and ideas,
different values and tastes,
different in age,
different in gender
and language,

**Yet, we are one family –
Children of God every one;
We join our hearts in worship,
We join our voices in praise
And we join our lives as the Body of Christ.
Amen.**

HYMN

*A new commandment
I give unto you:
that you love one another
as I have loved you,
that you love one another
as I have loved you.*

2 You are my friends
if you do what I command you.
without my help you can do nothing.
You are my friends
if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.

4 True love is patient,
not arrogant or boastful;
love bears all things, love is eternal.
True love is patient,
not arrogant or boastful;
love bears all things, love is eternal.

1 By this shall all know
that you are my disciples
if you have love for one another.
By this shall all know
that you are my disciples
if you have love for one another.

3 I am the true vine,
my Father is the gard'ner.
Abide in me: I will be with you.
I am the true vine,
my Father is the gard'ner.
Abide in me: I will be with you.

V1. unknown, based on John 13: 34-35

*Vs 2-4: Aniceto Nazareth, based on John 15 and 1 Corinthians 13
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CONFESSIO

When we treat our faith as nothing more than a self-help system
and You, God, as simply a cure for whatever ails us,
Where is the love?

When we use the gifts our planet gives us
with little care for our wastefulness and destruction,
Where is the love?

When we deny and disdain truths and practices
that others hold dear,
Where is the love?

When we ignore the sickness, the loneliness,
the struggles and the vulnerability of others,
because it doesn't affect us,

Where is the love?

When we berate ourselves for our failures,
or hold ourselves to impossible and trivial standards

Where is the love?

**Forgive us, Lord,
and teach us and our world what it really means to love.**

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you 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.**

THE COLLECT

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 11: 1 - 18

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 Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain;
Love lives again,
that with the dead has been;
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

2 In the grave they laid him,
Love by hatred slain,
thinking that never
he would wake again,
laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

3 Forth he came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he that for three days
in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead,
my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

4 When our hearts are wintry,
grieving or in pain,
thy touch can call us
back to life again;
fields of our hearts,
that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)
CCL Licence Number 5935

GOSPEL READING

John 13: 31 - 35

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

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.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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

1 O Jesus I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

3 O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

2 O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

4 O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant my own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heav'n receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)
CCL Licence Number: 5935

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 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.

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BLESSINGS

NOTICES

BIRTHDAYS

HYMN

I am a new creation,
No more in condemnation,
Here in the grace of God I stand.

My heart is overflowing,
My love just keeps on growing,
Here in the grace of God I stand.

And I will praise you, Lord,
Yes, I will praise you, Lord,
And I will sing of all that you have done.

A joy that knows no limits,
a lightness in my spirit
Here in the grace of God I stand.

(repeat through)

I will praise you, Lord,
Yes, I will praise you, Lord,
And I will sing of all that you have done.

A joy that knows no limits,
a lightness in my spirit
Here in the Grace of God I stand.
Here in the Grace of God I stand.
Here in the Grace of God I stand.

*Dave Bilbrough
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GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

"Go into all the world," said Jesus;

We go to make His loving words heard.

"What you do for the least, you do for Me," said Jesus;

We go to make His loving deeds seen.

"I will never drive away any who come to me," said Jesus;

We go to make His loving invitation known.

BLESSING

May the love of God,
the Three-in-One,
fill our hearts and make us one with God,
and with all of God's children,
And may we grow in that love
now and always
And may the blessing...

Amen