

Welcome to our Holy Communion service

at St Mary's, Shirehampton

Sunday 14th September 2025

Call to Worship:

Let God hear the voice
of beloved Creation,

of people of trees,
of birds beasts and fish.

Let life breathe out praise from the heights to the depths
to God the Creator, Sustainer and Friend.

Hymn:

1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours' he said.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)
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Confession:

God's whole creation groans.

The land produces thorns and thistle and longs to be set free.

Our sin affects all around us.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Creator God,

we confess that we have not honoured and obeyed you.

We have broken our relationships with one another,

abused your fragile creation,

wounded your love and marred your holy image in us.

We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Lead us from apathy to love.

Strengthen us as stewards of your precious people

and of your glorious creation.

Absolution:

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom 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.**

The Collect:

**Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

First Reading: *1 Timothy 1: 12 - 17*

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 Here is love vast as an ocean
loving kindness as the flood,
when the Prince of life, our ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember;
who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
throughout heaven's eternal days.

3 On the morn of resurrection
as the angel rolled the stone
power of God, in boundless measure,
flowed from heaven's glorious throne.
Jesus, over death victorious,
rose to life in heav'n to reign,
and his love for us now offers
freedom from our guilty stain.

2 On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers
poured incessant from above;
and heaven's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.

4 Let us all your love accepting,
love you, ever all our days;
Let us seek your kingdom only
and our lives be to your praise.
You alone shall be our glory,
nothing in the world we see.
You have cleansed and sanctified us,
you yourself have set us free.

Words: after William Rees William Edwards

Music: Robert Lowry (1826-99)

Arranged Roger Mayor

Verse 3 John R Riley © 2001

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Gospel Reading: Luke Luke 15: 1 - 10

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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,
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 Prayer:

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 In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied,
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain,
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend
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The Invitation:

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

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,
the crown of all creation.

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 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.

Christ is the bread of life

When we eat this bread and drink this cup

We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

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.

Remember, Lord,

your Church in every land.

Reveal her unity, guard her faith,

and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with the blessed Virgin Mary and 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:

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.

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Communion is shared:

*The Church of England's national policy on distribution of Communion
is that intinction (dipping) is not permitted.*

*Communion should normally be received in both kinds separately,
but if you do not wish to receive from the common cup,
you may receive bread only.*

Father of Light in whom is no change or shadow of turning,
you give us every good and perfect gift
and have brought us to birth by your word of truth:
may we be a living sign of that kingdom,
where your whole creation will be made perfect in Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

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:

Everyone needs compassion
A love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

[Chorus:]

Saviour, he can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of Salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as you find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender

[Chorus]

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen king Jesus *[2x]*

[Chorus x2]

Sending and Blessing:

As we prepare to leave and embrace the challenges of our lives and our world,
let us ask for God's blessing.

May God bless us with strength to seek justice.

Amen.

May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth.

Amen.

May God bless us with love to bring forth new life.

Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.