

**United Benefice of St Stephen's with St James, Blackburn
All Age Spiritual Communion Service on
The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 6th September 2020
Service led by Revd. Sarah Gill**

Welcome and notices slides

Music to be played at the beginning of the service as part of preparation: Be still for the presence of the Lord
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Call to worship Psalm 149:1-5

¹ Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

² Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

³ Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.

Welcome and Introduction to the service

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: Sing of the Lord's goodness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGE6ZOumLQM>

Invitation to confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice,
and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

Prayer of Confession

**Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Words of assurance

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**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 (Special Prayer for Today)

Almighty God,

who called your Church to bear witness

that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:

help us to proclaim the good news of your love,

that all who hear it may be drawn to you;

through him who was lifted up on the cross,

and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen

Bible readings

New Testament reading: Romans 13:8-14

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your

neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Here the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 18 verses 15-20

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁵ 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

At the end...

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you, O Christ.**

Lockdown experience

Reflection

Hymn: God forgave my sins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo3MGpcBC5M>

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God

**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**

Prayers of Intercessions

Introductions to the Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.
The peace of God be always with you
and also with you.

Preparation of the Communion Table

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

Eucharistic (Holy Communion) Prayer

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

[Question Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Answer Listen, and we will hear.]

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us your love,
even when things go wrong.
Jesus knew hurt and pain.
Through him you wipe away our tears,
and fill us with your peace.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and 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.]**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.

He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

[Question Why do we share this bread and wine?

Answer Listen, and we will hear.]

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'
After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

[Question How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer Listen, and we will hear.]

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with [N and] all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,

in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking Of The Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us

Jesus, bearer of our sins, Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Spiritual Communion Section

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since, I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen

During the act of Spiritual Communion hymn to be played:

Take my life and let it be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf11rReeWIs>

Prayer after Communion

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Final Hymn: One more step along the world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-VS-jqXryY>

The Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,

and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

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