



Sharing Christ in the Community

A Service for St John's Day

Sunday 28th June 2026 at 10.00am

SONG

Please stand

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew
Here, the cross shall stand as witness
And the symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine, and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here, the love of God through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve, and teach
And live the Word they've known**

**Here the outcast and the stranger
Bears the image of God's face
Let us bring an end to fear and danger
All are welcome, all are welcome (all are welcome, all are
welcome)
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where all are named
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured taught and claimed
As words within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter
Prayers of faith and songs of grace
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter
All are welcome, all are welcome (all are welcome)
All are welcome in this place.**

Words and Music: Marty Haugen 1995

Tune: Two Oaks

GREETING

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.
And also with you.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Please sit down

SAYING SORRY TO GOD

Please sit down

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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.

A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR ST JOHN'S DAY

Almighty God,
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist
was wonderfully born,
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour
by the preaching of repentance:
lead us to repent according to his preaching
and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth,
boldly to rebuke vice,
and patiently to suffer for truth's sake;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

SONG

Please stand

**So many years of prayer, praise and songs
resound within these mellow walls.
This holy place we call St John's
helps us to answer to God's calls.**

**How many people here have sought
to follow Christ in all his Ways,
to hear his Word, the truths he taught
to guide them through their earthly days.**

**Here quiet moments ease the mind,
the soul is lifted by his might.
Hope, Faith and Love in him we find
illuminated by his glorious light.**

**Often on riches long past we gaze
yet grant us, Lord, a vision clear,
and send us forward, hearts ablaze,
to bring your Kingdom ever near.**

**So many years of prayer, praise and songs
resound within these mellow walls.
This holy place we call St John's
*demands we answer to God's calls.***

Words: Patricia Bennett

Music: Richard Sutcliffe

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1: 57-66, 80

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed.

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

TALK

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.**

PRAYERS

led by children from St John's School

THE PEACE

'Where two or three are gathered together in my name,'
says the Lord, 'there am I in the midst of them.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

SONG

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.**

***And I will trust in you alone,
and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.***

**He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.**

***And I will trust in you alone,
and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.***

**And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.**

***And I will trust in you alone,
and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.***

*Words: Psalm 23 adapted Stuart Townend
Music: Stuart Townend*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBRANCE

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and 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.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

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 for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gift
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

The President receives communion, gives communion to the other ministers on the dais and then to the congregation.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
whose prophet John the Baptist
proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of God
 who takes away the sin of the world:
Grant that we who in this sacrament
 have known your forgiveness and your life-giving love
May ever tell of your mercy and your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**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.

NOTICES

SONG

**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.*

**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?**

*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.*

**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?**

*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.*

Daniel L. Schutte (b.1947)

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BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ's holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with you
and guide you on your way at every change and turn;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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