



Sharing Christ in the Community

A Celebration of Generosity

Sunday 20th September 2026 at 10.00am

The Gathering

SONG: 173 Glorious things of thee are spoken

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything,
we may share abundantly in every good work.

cf. 2 Corinthians 9.8

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.

Let us bring our gifts to the Lord
that they may be used for his glory.

May the Spirit of God fill our hearts
as we come to meet him in this place.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE *Please sit down*

As those who know the generosity of God,
let us confess our sins,
especially the ways in which we take his good gifts for granted.

Father, in all things you are generous towards us,
yet we have sown sparingly;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you show us the way of humility,
yet we have given reluctantly.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you show us the gift of grace,
yet we have loved grudgingly;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Please stand

**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

God of grace, ever creating and restoring,
you breathe life into all things
and embrace us with an everlasting love;
help us to grow in wonder and awe,
to embody a spirit of gratitude, and to dream generous dreams;
that, in gathering what we have, we may graciously offer ourselves
to accomplish what you will, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST BIBLE READING: Philippians 1: 21-end *Please sit*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: 153 For the fruits of his creation

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20: 1-16 *Please stand*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

THE CREED

Please stand

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

A LITANY OF GENEROSITY

Please sit

Let us give thanks to God
for his gifts so generous given to us,
and for the blessings we are called to share.

For recognising that all things come from you,
for remembering that we are stewards of your gifts,
for wisely using the resources entrusted to us.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For rejoicing in the beauty of creation,
for the care of your world,
for sharing the gifts of creation equally among all people.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For courage in offering sacrificial generosity,
for giving to be an act of worship,
for grace in offering our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For all financial gifts offered to your Church,
for freely giving as we have received,
for giving and not counting the cost.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For releasing our hold on material possessions,
for contentment in what we have,
for trust in letting go.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For serving you as you deserve,
for following our calling as your disciples,
for serving you with gladness of heart.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For being a blessing through the blessings we receive,
for generosity which enables mission,
for sharing abundantly in every good work.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For living a generous life,
for our actions to point beyond themselves,
for our generosity to be an expression of love and gratitude.

We offer ourselves to you, O God.

St John's Prayer for Growth

**God of mission,
you give fresh life to St John's.
Send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our activities,
and power to our witness,
that we may grow
in love and commitment to you,
in number of disciples,
and in loving service to our neighbours
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Source of all life and giver of all that is good,
hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

THE PEACE *Please stand*

The Spirit brings love, generosity and peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

SONG: 799 All I once held dear

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Eternal God and Father, all things are in your making.

In fulfilment of your promise you have showered us with blessings and filled us with your gifts.

You form us in your image, the first fruits of your creation, and by your Holy Spirit embed within us generous hearts that we may be channels of your self-giving love.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve you with joy for ever.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing;

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 praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.'

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms,
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Offering ourselves into the hands of God,
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

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us
peace.**

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.

AFTER COMMUNION

Loving and righteous God,
here at your table we have tasted your goodness and generosity
liberate us from all jealousy and greed,
that we may respond cheerfully by offering ourselves,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

SONG: 201 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

The Sending Out

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The God of hope fill us with every blessing,
that we may share in every good work;
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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