



Holy Communion

Stephen
26 December 2021

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether a regular or a visitor it is good to have you here. At All Hallows we continue to take precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible as we worship, the details of these are below. We hope that you find peace and spiritual refreshment this morning as we journey through the season of Advent.

*We continue to observe **social distancing rules** in our church during worship.*

*We encourage you to use the **hand sanitiser** stations when you arrive, before and after communion, and when you leave.*

*Please wear a **face mask**. You may remove your mask for a brief period when receiving communion. We continue to take **communion** in one kind only.*

Please take this service sheet home with you. Tea and coffee will be served after the service from the back of church. A one way system will be in place, we would ask that you get your drink and sit in a pew to chat to avoid crowding at the coffee station.

***Personal photographs** you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, are not to be published on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*

We stand as the bell sounds to mark the beginning of our worship. The minister(s) and the Child Bishop process into the church.

WELCOME

We remain standing as the minister welcomes us to the service.

HYMN

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748) GREETING

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

All Amen.

Minister The Lord be with you,

All 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.

CONFESSION

Minister As Stephen rebuked God's people
for not listening to the word of God,
let us confess our stubbornness and sin
which resist the Holy Spirit.

God, be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
help and strengthen you by his Spirit
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

GLORIA

All **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.**

COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

The Collect is said:

Gracious Father,
who gave the first martyr Stephen
grace to pray for those
who took up stones against him:

grant that in all our sufferings for the truth
we may learn to love even our enemies
and to seek forgiveness
for those who desire our hurt,
looking up to heaven
to him who was crucified for us,
Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 7.51-60

Stephen said to the high priest and the council: 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may be kept.

SECOND READING Galatians 2.16b-20

We have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 10.17-22

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.

I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction: 'Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

CREED

Minister Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All 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.

Silence may be kept.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Minister Full of the Holy Spirit,
let us approach the throne of grace,
and bring our prayers to Jesus the Lord.

This response may be included:

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept.

PEACE

Minister Jesus said,
'In the world you face persecution.
But take courage; I have conquered the world.'

John 16.33

All The peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

HYMN

- 1 God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of his Spirit
into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore

what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

- 4 Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

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PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Minister Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Minister The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister All glory and honour be yours
always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For love of us fallen sinners
he most wonderfully and humbly chose to be made human,
and to take our nature upon him,
so that we might be born again by your Spirit
and restored in your image.

The love that brought him down to earth
lifted your martyr Stephen from earth to heaven.

By that love he spoke your word
with wisdom and the Spirit;
by that love he saw your glory
and Jesus at your right hand;
by that love he overcame the anger of his accusers
and forgave their cruelty;
by that love he committed his spirit into your hands
and won the crown of righteousness.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**All 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.**

Minister Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

**All Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Minister And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this
our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of *[N and]* all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister 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.

(Or) 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.

Minister We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.**

All **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

Minister Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion.

HYMN

- 1 Once in royal David's city
 stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby
 in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable,
 and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and mean and lowly
 lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 And through all his wondrous childhood
 he would honour and obey,
 love and watch the lowly maiden,
 in whose gentle arms he lay:
 Christian children all must be
 mild, obedient, good as he.
- 4 For he is our childhood's pattern,
 day by day like us he grew,

he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

5 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

6 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister Merciful Lord,
we thank you for the signs of your mercy
revealed in birth and death:
save us by the coming of your Son,
and give us joy in honouring Stephen,
first martyr of the new Israel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All 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.

NOTICES

HYMN

1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,

thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.
Alleluia, alleluia.

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness, still their one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia.

3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, alleluia.

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia.

5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, alleluia.

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest:
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia, alleluia.

7 But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, alleluia.

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia.

William Walsham How (1823-1867)

BLESSING

Minister God give you grace to be faithful witnesses,
to see heaven opened
and the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Minister Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All **Amen.**

The people and ministers depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Charles Marie Widor: Marche Pontificale

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Richard H, Tim C, Kay G, Veronica D, Fred R, Jonathan, Diane J, Fr Stephen S, Ron W, Wendy S, Julie V, Margaret C, Kath T.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Diana B, Cedric G.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please obtain the consent of the person you wish us to pray for. Then tell Rev Christine whom to pray for and the reason why.

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: Emily Florence Hacksley, Dorothy Annie Falkner, Wynford Thomas, Ernest Edward Adams, Gordon Douglas Lambert, Margaret Hoather, Yvonne Round, Gordon Hunter, Florence Adams, Bertie Inness, David Anthony Inness, Jean West, Peter Joiner, Dorothy Lovell, Grace Steele, Delia Housden, Terrence Daniel Smith, Don Gough, Kathleen Higgs, Russell Dickens, Peter Moore, Major Clive Bishop, Vera Ward.

DIARY

No morning and evening prayers in Christmas week

Wed 29 Dec	Thomas Becket	
10:30 - 12:15	All Hallows	open to the public
12:15 - 13:00	All Hallows	Midweek Eucharist
Thurs 30 Dec		
10:00 - 10:30	All Saints	Holy Communion
Sun 2 Jan	Epiphany	
8:00 - 8:30	All Saints	Eucharist
9:15 - 10:30	All Saints	Eucharist
11:15 - 12:30	All Hallows	Eucharist
18:00 - 18:30	Zoom	Compline

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