



Welcome to the
Parish Church of St Mark
Living thinking faith

THE HOSPITALITY OF CHRIST

A Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 17 June 2012 at 10.00 am

2nd Sunday after Trinity

Welcome

Welcome and greetings, especially if you are new to St Mark's. May you soon discover what you are seeking and find companionship for life's journey. This communion is more complete with your presence.

Today's liturgy takes the form of a simple, yet profound, meal of thanksgiving and hospitality, a Eucharist or Holy Communion, which originates in the ministry of Jesus and has characterised Christian worship through the centuries.

To use the *Induction Loop*, please select the *T Setting* on your hearing aid. We ask that *mobile phones* and *paggers* be switched off or set to silent mode. Large print versions of worship materials are available.

Before the service begins, we are all invited to share in a few moments of quietness in preparation for worship.

Preparing for worship

In the depths of my being I become quiet and still;
I wait for you, my God, source of my salvation.

Jim Cotter.

Gathering

Organ Voluntary

Welcome

Hymn

FOR THE FRUITS of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000).
Tune: Ar hyd y nos.*

Prayers of Approach

May God be with you:
and also with you.

EVER-LOVING 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.**

Gloria

LAUDATE Dominum,
laudate Dominum,
omnes gentes, alleluia.
LAUDATE Dominum,
laudate Dominum,
omnes gentes, alleluia.

*Praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord,
peoples, nations. Alleluia.
Praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord,
peoples, nations. Alleluia.*

Jacques Berthier (1923-94).

Collect

Let us pray. *(please remain standing)*

God, our Mystery,
you sow seeds of faith in every human soul
and wait patiently for their awakening:
pour your Spirit upon us
that we may bear forth the fruits of your kingdom
and discern your presence amidst arid landscapes
and amongst those who seem strange,
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Attending

Reading – Ezekiel 17. 22 – 24, read by Christopher Nyabezi

A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴ All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Let us listen for the word of the Lord.

A time of quietness for reflection.

Hymn

Children and young people leave for their groups

THE KINGDOM of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the prisoners are freed,
the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
in place of despair.

The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry glory
to God all in all.

Bryn Rees (1911-83).

Tune: Hanover.

Gospel – Mark 4. 26 – 34.

The good news is proclaimed from the heart of the worshipping community.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS SAID, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' ³⁰ He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Ian Maher, CA.

The sermon is followed by a time of quietness for reflection.

Responding

Prayers of Solidarity & Concern, led by Gary Grief.

The following bidding and response is used between prayers.

May our experience of exclusion:

Mean others experience inclusion. (Amen)

Prayers of Penitence & Forgiveness

Hear the teaching of Christ:

you shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart and with all your soul

and with all your mind and with all your strength.

This is the first commandment.

And the second is this:

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

In the light of Christ's teaching,

let us acknowledge our wrongdoing and failure,

seeking God's forgiveness.

Silence for preparation.

GRACIOUS GOD,

when we have failed

to walk in the way of your commandments

or to heed the cry of those in need;

when our words and actions

have caused suffering to others

or diminished ourselves,

set us free from past wrongs

and liberate us for the service of Christ. Amen.

May God's forgiveness be your freedom

and God's wisdom be your guide. **Amen.**

Greeting of 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.

1 Corinthians 12.12-13.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

We share Christ's peace with one another, especially with those who are unfamiliar or from whom we are estranged.

Hymn

A collection is taken for the ministry of St Mark's. If you are a taxpayer, please place your gift in one of the yellow envelopes provided, writing your name and address on the front. If you leave the envelope blank, we are unable to reclaim tax under the 'Gift Aid' scheme. Thank you.

JESUS CALLS us here to meet him
as through word and song and prayer
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.

Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
rooted firm in time and space,
where the church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

*John L Bell (b 1949) & Graham Maule (b 1958).
Tune: Lewis Folk Melody.*

Abiding

Preparation

Tokens of our response to God, bread and wine, and the collection, are offered.

Gather us in, O God:
From every age and outlook.

Gather us in, O God:
From every creed and colour.

Gather us in, O God:
From every circumstance and walk of life.

Be found among us:
**In the sharing of bread and wine,
in the offering of friendship and service,
in the openness of thankful hearts
and outstretched hands,
be found among us.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray. *(please sit or kneel)*

Ever-beckoning God,
we thank you that in every age
you are calling people to venture forth in faith -
leaving behind the securities of self-interest
in pursuit of justice, truth and peace.

We thank you that in Jesus
your word has been fulfilled –
through life, through death,
through life beyond death –
drawing humanity into your presence
that all may find their integrity in you.

We thank you that through him
we can approach this table,
no matter who we are or where life has led us,
no matter what our confusion or how deep our doubts.

And so we praise you
with the faithful of every time and place
who have struggled to embody your word
and live out your wisdom, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of truth and love.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

And now, in obedience to his command,
it is our privilege and our joy,
to remember the night he gave himself up
and was handed over to death.

One final time, among friends,
gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread,
and after giving you thanks,
he broke it and offered it to them, saying,
'This is my body' –
the vision within me,
the vocation beyond me –
'I entrust it to you.'

Afterwards, he took the cup of wine,
blessed it, and offered it to them, saying,
'This is our new relationship with God,
sealed with my blood.
This is how you will remember me.'

As we remember his life,
proclaim his death and celebrate his resurrection,
may your Holy Spirit inspire this communion
that all who share this bread and wine
may feed on Christ and become one with him.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer & Sharing in Communion

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.

The bread is broken.

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.**

Words of invitation follow.

Christ's table has been prepared
and Christ is the one who beckons.
Come take your place and feed on him.

Everyone is invited to share in the communion through receiving the bread and wine or, if preferred, a prayer of blessing. Please approach the altar rail with those around you. Gluten-free bread rolls are used.

During administration, we sing together: 'Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus (Give thanks to the Lord for God is good).'

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'Con-fi - te - mi - ni Do-mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus, Con-fi - te - mi - ni Do-mi - no, Al - le - lu - ia!'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm.

*Afterwards, the choir will sing 'O Come Ye Servants of the Lord,'
Christopher Tye (1500-73).*

At the conclusion, silence is shared.

Venturing

Prayers of Commitment

Let us pray.

**GOD of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water
and fed us on the bread of life:
refresh and sustain us by your Spirit
as we go forth on our journey,
in the companionship of Christ
and in the service of your kingdom. Amen.**

Notices

Sending Out

*Prayers are offered for Ian and Ann Maher as they leave St Mark's
for the Cathedral where Ian will serve his curacy once ordained Deacon on 1 July.*

LORD of the harvest,
we give thanks for Ian and Ann –
for their companionship in the gospel,
ministry through word and service,
and gifts of wisdom, kindness and grace.

As they prepare to leave us,
send your Holy Spirit upon them:
strengthen them in the faith of Jesus,
inspire them with the good news of your kingdom
and kindle within them a passion for your ways.

As Ann and Ian have brought blessing to us,
so may they bring blessing to others
and find blessing in the service of Christ. **Amen.**

Ian and Ann are anointed with the oil of gladness and grace.

Ian/Ann, we anoint you for service:
remain faithful to your calling
as God remains faithful to you. **Amen.**

Blessing

Go forth in peace:
let the wisdom of God guide your way,
let the compassion of Christ be your gift to the world,
let the fire of the Spirit be your inspiration;

and the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ and Sacred Spirit
rest upon you and all whom you love,
both living and departed,
now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

GUIDE ME, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliver,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-91), tr Peter Williams (1727-96) et al.
Tune: Cwm Rhondda.

Commission *(please face the back of church)*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands.
Now we put our lives in yours.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ Amen.

Organ voluntary: Toccata in b-minor, Eugene Gigout (1844-1925)

Refreshments are served in the lounge.



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