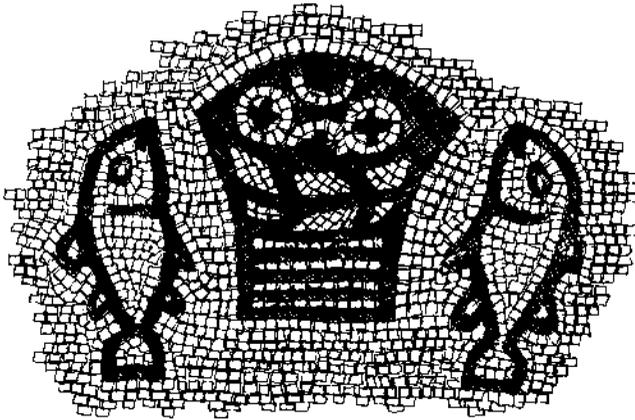


Welcome to the Parish Church of St Mark  
*Living thinking faith*

# A SHARING IN THE HOSPITALITY OF CHRIST



A Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 30 September 2012 at 10.00 am

17<sup>th</sup> 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 companions for life's journey. This communion is more complete with you being a part of it.

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*

Wait without expectation  
which might focus attention too narrowly,  
so that we miss the coming.

Wait with expectancy,  
alert, hearts, minds, hands, ears  
open to receive the gift.

(Ann Lewin)



Paradoxically, it is as we struggle  
with our own inadequacies  
that we stumble into  
the graciousness  
of God.

# Gathering

*Organ Voluntary*

Welcome

Hymn

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Chorus*

*Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960).*

*Tune: Faithfulness.*

## 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 (*standing, we sing together*)

**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

Let us pray. *(please remain standing)*

God of welcome,  
your people are called  
to be distinct  
not by width of separation  
but depth of hospitality  
and peace within our lives:  
root out our resentment  
and free us to welcome  
all who work for life and liberation,  
whatever path they tread;  
through Jesus Christ, the companion of many ways. **Amen.**

*Prayers for an Inclusive Church.*

## Journeying together in Faith

*As young members prepare to leave for their groups, a prayer is offered.*

**May God guide each of us,  
whatever our age or experience,  
in the way of Christ –  
the love of God go with you. Amen.**

*Children, teenagers and group leaders set off.*

## Attending

### Reading – James 5. 13 – 20, read by Angela Spriggs

A reading from the letter of James.

ARE ANY among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins

will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. <sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Let us listen for the word of the Lord.

*A time of quietness for reflection.*

## Song

WHEN I NEEDED a neighbour  
were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour  
were you there?

*And the creed and the colour  
and the name won't matter,  
Were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty,  
were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty,  
were you there?

*Chorus.*

I was cold, I was naked,  
were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked,  
were you there?

*Chorus.*

When I needed a shelter  
were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter  
were you there?

*Chorus.*

When I needed a healer  
were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer  
were you there?

*Chorus.*

Wherever you travel  
I'll be there, I'll be there,  
Wherever you travel  
I'll be there.

*And the creed and the colour  
and the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.*

*Sydney Carter (1915-2004).*

*Tune: Neighbour.*

Gospel – Mark 9. 38 -50.

*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.**

JOHN SAID to Jesus, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> 'If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown

into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup> 'For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – Rev'd Dr Michael Bayley.

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

Prayers of Solidarity & Concern, led by Eve Saunders

*One of these or another set of biddings and responses is used.*

Your kingdom come.

**Your will be done.**

God of our yearning.

**We seek you.**

God of justice, truth and love.

**Inspire us with your Spirit  
to let your Kingdom come. Amen.**

Ever-beckoning God.

**We seek your presence  
and will serve you. 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  
and in the strength of God's forgiveness,  
let us acknowledge our wrongdoing and failure.

*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.*

I HEARD the voice of Jesus say:  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad,  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk,  
till travelling days are done.

*Horatius Bonar (1808-89).*  
*Tune: Kingsfold.*

## Communing

### 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, singing,

**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 which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me'

Afterwards, he took the cup of wine,  
blessed it, and offered it to them, saying,  
'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.'

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 the following chant:*

The image shows a musical score for a communion chant, consisting of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with guitar chords and a bass clef staff with a melodic line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**System 1:**

Chords: G, C, Am, D, Bm, Em, Dsus4, D

Lyrics: Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry.

**System 2:**

Chords: G, D, Em, Bm, C, Dsus4, D, G

Lyrics: Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

*Afterwards, the choir will sing 'The Lord's Prayer,' by Robert Stone (1516 – 1613) followed by 'A Gaelic Blessing,' John Rutter (b 1945).*

*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

## 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

BE THOU my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me save that thou art;  
thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;  
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,  
be thou my armour, and be thou my might,  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise,  
thou mine inheritance through all my days;  
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven, when battle is done,  
grant heaven's joys to me, O bright heaven's sun;  
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish, c 8<sup>th</sup> century tr Mary Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified, Eleanor Hull (1860-1935).  
Tune:Slane.*

**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*

Refreshments are served in the lounge,  
followed by lunch.

# Living thinking faith

*The Christian Way – a fresh approach*

Mondays at 7.30 pm, for six weeks,  
commencing 15 October 2012.

Each evening will begin with refreshments  
followed by a presentation and open discussion  
on one of the following questions (1 per evening):

Who am I and what is life for?

Who is Jesus and what is his relevance?

What, when and where is the Kingdom of God?

What is the church and why does it exist?

What is the Bible and how to read it?

What is worship and when does it happen?

Everyone welcome.

Please sign up at the back of church.



*Printed on Recycled Paper.*

*The following sources have been used in compiling this service: 'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,' and 'Common Worship: Times and Seasons,' copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 & 2006; 'Prayers for an Inclusive Church,' by Steve Shakespeare; as well as locally crafted texts. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Version of the Bible, Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995. Hymns and songs are reproduced under Church Copyright Licence Number 294846. The image on the front cover is of a mosaic on the floor of the 4<sup>th</sup> century church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fishes in Tabgha, Galilee.*