

THE PARISH OF
WITNEY



St Mary
the Virgin



The Eucharist

Bible Sunday

Sunday 24 October 2021

10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church in the Parish of Witney.**

We are an inclusive church embracing a hospitable Christianity. Everyone is welcome at this service. If you usually receive communion please join us - or please come forward to receive a blessing.

We are five Church of England churches, some large and some small, serving the town of Witney and the villages round about.

We are here to worship God and to help each other to grow in faith.

We are committed to living our lives in the love, joy and hope of the risen Christ.

You can find us in church, in schools, in hospitals, village halls, supermarkets, nursing homes, up late with the Street Pastors, at the toddler group... wherever people are.

If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards.

The Procession

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for a fanfare as the procession moves into place and we sing the first hymn

Thanks to God whose word was spoken
in the deed that made the earth.
God's the voice that called a nation;
God's the fires that tried its worth.
God has spoken:
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose Word Incarnate
heights and depths of life did share.
Deeds and words and death and rising,
grace in human form declare.
God has spoken:
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose word was written
in the Bible's sacred page,
record of the revelation
showing God to every age.
God has spoken:
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose word is published
in the tongues of every race.
See its glory undiminished
by the change of time or place.
God has spoken:
praise God for the living word.

Thanks to God whose word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.
God is speaking:
praise God for the living word.

Words: RT Brooks, 1918-1985
Music: ST HELEN
based on a prayer of S Augustine

The Greeting

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

The Penitential Rite

‘Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.’ Let us confess our sins and failings to almighty God:

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,**

**love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

We then join in the song of the Angels in praise of God

The Gloria

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

Let us pray:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first reading, Isaiah 35.3-6. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

We stand

God, the heart and goal of being
to whose love we trust our lives,
Help us seek, and so discover
pathways new which faith provides;
Give us knowledge, give us insight
and fresh visions of your light.

God, whose touch brings hope to people,
who are lost without your love.
Hear the prayers and praise we offer
from our dark to light above;
Teach us how to share your glory
that your presence all may see.

God of love, of power and action
from our bondage set us free;
Take our lives and in them fashion
what you destine each shall be;
Live is us who stand before you
and through us your world renew.

God the Father, God the Saviour,
God the Holy Spirit – One;
While we sing your praise to heavenward
may on earth your will be done;
Let the world accept our offering
ff the Song of Love we bring.

Words: Ronald Green
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1818-79

The Second Reading

We sit for the second reading, 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

*We stand for the Alleluia which heralds the Gospel,
John 5.36b-end.*

The choir sings first and the congregation then joins in.

Alleluia *Tone II*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: © 2016 Royce Nickel. Licensed in the Creative Commons by-nc-nd 3.0

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon.

The Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
All **I believe and trust in God the Father.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us an rose again?
All **I believe and trust in God the Son.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
All **I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

This is the faith of the Church.
All **This is our faith.**
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Intercessions

United in the power of the Trinity,
we offer our prayers and praises to the throne of grace:

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The 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.

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

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung by the choir and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service. In order to maintain the safety of the congregation, we are not able to pass the offertory plate around at the moment. Instead you can give in one of three ways: i) There will be a collection plate as you leave the church by the West Door; ii) there is a contactless card reader by the door for you to use; iii) or you can text WITPCC to

70480 to donate £10. For other amounts text WITPCC followed by the amount that you wish to give to 70480 eg WITPCC15, WITPCC5 etc.

Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the Gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
heal to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind,
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight!
Move on the waters' face
bearing the gifts of grace,
and, in earth's darkest place,
let there be light!

Holy and blessèd Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide,
let there be light!

Words: John Marriott, 1780-1825
Music: MOSCOW, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray:

Loving God, we present now what we have brought to you. Things that are both visible and invisible. The bread, wine and money represent our work, and express in a clear and visible way our love and our thanks. But we also bring as an offering the fragile dreams and hopes that we have. These invisible gifts are what sustain our lives. Receive all that we have brought in love, O God.

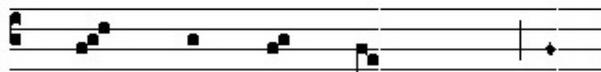
Amen.



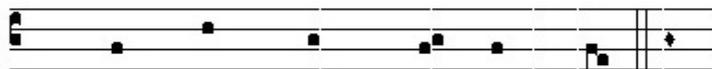
The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



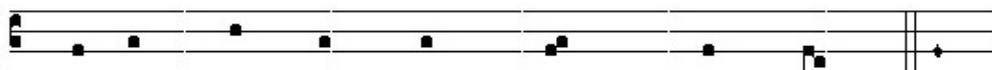
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your 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!**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he 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.

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 and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

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

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us ✠ the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with Mary the Mother of God,
John the Baptist, John the Evangelist
and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour

for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting
praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Through Christ we receive adoption by the Spirit;
as sons and daughters of God we are bold to say:

**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 ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

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 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Creator God, you transform this bread and wine
to be for us the body and blood of Jesus.
Be with us on the journey which is the future,
that we and all creation may make anew the story of Life,
and all that is may live to praise and
magnify your name forever.
People of God, draw near in faith and travel far in grace.

We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come forward and receive the body and blood of Christ as directed by the Sidesperson. Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

The Communion Hymn

We sit or kneel for the following

*You words are spirit and life, O Lord:
richer than gold, stronger than death.
Your words are spirit and life, O Lord:
Life everlasting.*

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul,
Reviving the weary spirit.
God's rule can be trusted:
Bringing us wisdom, bringing God's wisdom to birth. Refrain

God's precepts keep us, their purpose is right.
They gladden the hearts of people.
God's command is so clear,
It brings us new vision, bring God's life to our eyes. Refrain

Living by God's truth is holy and sure;
God's presence is everlasting,
God's truth is eternal, bringing us justice;
Bringing God's justice to earth. Refrain

God's word is precious, desired more than gold;
Worth more than we dare imagine
And, sweeter than honey, this word will feed us,
Bringing fulfilment and joy.

*You words are spirit and life, O Lord:
richer than gold, stronger than death.
Your words are spirit and life, O Lord:
Life everlasting.*

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell
Ps 19

The Post Communion Prayer

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

**All O God, whose word is fruitless
when the mighty are not put down,
the humble remain humiliated,
the hungry are not filled,
and the rich are;
make good your word,
and begin with us who have been filled
with the word and the bread of life in this Eucharist.
Open our hearts and unblock our ears
to hear the voices of the poor**

**and share their struggle;
and send us away empty with longing
for your promise to come true
in Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

—Janet Morley, adapt, *Tell Out My Soul*, Christian Aid, 1990.

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Blessing

We remain standing

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Go now sure footed in faith
with eyes wide open
and waiting for God's glory
to surprise you
in unexpected ways;
and the ✠ blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Mystery, Sign and Hope
be with you and those whose lives you touch
now and always.

All **Amen.**

Rev Sandi McGill

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Recessional Hymn

O God beyond all praising we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay:
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown;
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Words: Mrs B Perry

Music: THAXTED Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Let us bless the Lord!
All **Thanks be to God!**

Everyone is welcome to stay for drinks after the Eucharist.

At St Mary's we are committed to:

Worship

living as a community nourished by the Eucharist, sustained by scripture and prayer, and building the church in unity and faith
deepening our lives of faith in the beauty and holiness of worship
sharing in a transformational experience which shapes our individual and corporate journeys of faith

Discipleship

living as a community where our teaching, mission and ministry are refined and energised by God
deepening our sacramental life, linking life experience to the story of faith
sharing our lives in the love, joy and hope of the risen Christ

Pastoral care

living as agents of God's love
deepening our understanding of God's call on each of us to be his hands in the world
sharing wholeness and care among God's hurting people

Outreach

living out the Gospel beyond the walls of the church
deepening our expectant and watchful attitude as we look signs of God's kingdom in the world
sharing the joy and simplicity of faith, wherever people are

Hospitality

living joyful, generous lives
deepening our heritage as a place of hospitable Christianity where lives are renewed and refreshed together
sharing open, inclusive, sacrificial fellowship

Join Us

Please support Saint Mary's Witney.

Your contributions make possible our ministry in liturgy and worship, community outreach, schools, learning, late night cafe, street pastors, visiting nursing homes and hospitals and other pastoral care. For more information please speak to one of the Ministry Team or Wardens.

Saint Mary's is profoundly grateful to the priests, lay leaders, volunteers, DCC members and friends whose unparalleled energy and determination make thousands of annual services, programmes and events possible. Please visit the parish website and twitter feed to stay in touch.