



Midhurst Parish Church

Sunday 2nd May 2021, 10:30am

5th Sunday of Easter. A Service of Holy Communion

This order of service is for you to use as you join in with our service from home via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 342 119 948

Preparing for the service at home

- *You may like light a candle if it is safe to do so.*
- *You are welcome to have some bread and wine (or other drink) ready to receive at the point of Communion.*

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Notices are given.

The following hymn is sung.

**I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin - my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord...***

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide - till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord...***

*Daniel L Schutte (b.1947)
© 1981, New Dawn Music*

Prayer of Preparation

All 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.

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

The Prayers of Penitence

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Loving God, we confess the times when we did not abide in your love, when we strayed from the path of faith and ran after other gods.

All In your mercy, forgive us.

Loving God, we confess the times when we did not abide in your love, when we have been less than loving, and hurt those around us.

All In your mercy, forgive us.

Loving God, we confess those times when we did not abide in your love, when we have not held ourselves accountable to you and measured our worth by our own achievements.

All In your mercy, forgive us. Make your love real to us once again, shape us and remake us in your image. Amen.

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

All Amen.

The 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.**

The Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8:26-end

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

The following hymn is sung.

**I AM THE LIGHT WHOSE BRIGHTNESS SHINES on every pilgrim's way,
and brings to evil's darkest place the glorious light of day.**

**I am the Gate that leads to life along the narrow way,
the Shepherd who will tend my sheep that none are lost or stray.**

**I am the Well from whose fresh springs life-giving water flows
and on each side the tree of life with leaves for healing grows.**

**I am the Bread, God's gift from heaven, sent down to satisfy
that hunger which cries out for food; who eats shall never die.**

**I am the Vine whose branches grow united in one root;
who dwell in me, and I in them, shall live and bear much fruit.**

**I am the Resurrection life, the power of God whereby
whoever truly trusts in me shall live and never die.**

**I am the Way, the Truth, the Life, and truth shall set you free
to seek and find the way to life and live that life in me.**

Words: Robert Willis (b.1947)

Music: Richmond - melody by Thomas Haweis (1734-1820)

The Gospel reading

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15:1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Prayers

The following response may be used.

Lord, in your mercy,

All **hear our prayer.**

Our Prayer for Growth

All **God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

Jesus said, "Abide in me as I abide in you."

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

We share the peace, using sign language.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The president praises God for his mighty Acts and all respond

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.**

The president recalls the Last Supper, and the following acclamation is used.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The prayer concludes...

...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

All **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

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.**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

We say the Agnus Dei

All **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.**

We consume our bread and wine as prompted by the words 'The Body of Christ' and 'The Blood of Christ.'

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen

Our final hymn is sung...

**LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The Blessing and Dismissal

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; 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 the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Please join us next Sunday in church (book tickets on the website)
or online for a Service of the Word at 10:30am**

Giving

If you would like to make a donation to our church today you can scan this QR code with your smart phone camera to **make a donation online.**

You can find out more about regular giving on our website
www.midhurstparishchurch.net

