

# THE BENEFICE of WITNEY

St Mary  
the Virgin

Holy Trinity  
Woodgreen

St John  
the Evangelist

St John  
the Baptist

St Kenelm  
Minster Lovell

Windrush  
Church

Called to be a community of mercy and kindness



Easter 5

## **The Eucharist**

*Service of thanksgiving marking the  
end of Sally and Toby's Ministries*

Sunday 28 April 2024

10.45am

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

**A particular welcome in this Easter Season as we  
celebrate the power of the Resurrection at work within and  
around us.**

Please do join in the service with great enthusiasm, for as  
Saint Augustine said, 'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is  
our song!'

If you are new to this church, please make yourselves known  
to one of the parish clergy and do join us for refreshments after  
the Eucharist.

**Because there is more to Christ than his humanity**

**- there is hope for the future**

**Because there is more to Christ than his pain**

**- there is life and love in abundance**

**Because there is more to Christ than his death**

**- there was and is resurrection**

*If you don't normally receive communion, you are very welcome  
to come forward for a blessing at the time of Communion.  
Please cross your arms over your front so we know you wish to  
receive a blessing.*

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

## ***The Gathering***

*We remain seated to sing. The leader sings it through once and we then repeat it twice:*

**Jesus, Jesus, Holy and anointed one, Jesus.  
Jesus, Jesus, Risen and exalted one, Jesus.**

**Your name is like honey on my lips,  
Your spirit like water to my soul  
Your word is a lamp unto my feet,  
Jesus I love You, I love You.**

*Words and Music: John Barnett/ Vineyard Music*

*We continue to sit as we sing together:*

**Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away  
slain for us, and we remember  
the promise made  
that all who come in faith  
find forgiveness at the Cross.**

***So we share in this bread of life  
and we drink of his sacrifice  
as a sign of our bonds of peace  
around the table of the King.***

## ***The Procession***

*As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the first hymn as the procession moves to the font*

**All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voices, let us sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beams,  
thou silver moon that gently gleams,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## The Rite of Sprinkling (Asperges)

*Sally leads the Asperges*

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence,  
night or morning.

*All* **Bright stars, high mountains,  
the depths of the seas,  
sources of rushing rivers;  
may all these break into song  
as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

May all the angels in the heavens reply

*All* **Amen! Amen! Amen!**  
Power, praise, honour, eternal glory to God,  
the only giver of grace.

*All* **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

~ anonymous Christian author, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century

Risen Christ, like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be  
seen as your followers.  
Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.  
Through this holy water wash us from our sins and be with us  
as we celebrate your resurrection,  
renewing the living spring of your life within us;  
through Christ our Lord be pray.

*All* **Alleluia! Amen!**

*The faithful are sprinkled with holy water from the font as a sign of  
forgiveness and blessing.*

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice,**

*Refrain*

Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfoldest blessings on our way,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
let them his glory also show: *Refrain*

And thou, most kind and gentle death,  
waiting to hush our latest breath,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou leadest home the child of God,  
and Christ our Lord the way hath trod: *Refrain*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
*Alleluia, Alleluia!*  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Words: after Francis of Assisi (1182-1226);

### ***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.**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!  
*All* **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

The service is introduced and the children are invited to head to their activities.

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

## The Gloria

To begin, the choir sings the refrain then the congregation repeat:

Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est heav'ns.

9  
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's peo-ple, all peo-ple on earth.

© Paul Inwood, published by OCP Publications. Reproduced by authorisation of Calamus licence 2274.

**All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.  
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,  
all people on earth.**

*Choir:* Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

**All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.  
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,  
all people on earth.**

*Choir:* Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy, mercy on us,

**All: Have mercy, mercy on us.**

*Choir:* You are seated at the right hand, at the right hand of the  
Father: receive, Lord, receive our prayer.

**All: Receive Lord, receive our prayer.**

**Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.  
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,  
all people on earth.**

*Choir:* 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, glory of God, the glory of God the Father.

**All: *Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.  
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,  
all people on earth.***

*Choir:* Amen!

**All: Amen!**

© Paul Inwood, published by OCP Publications.  
Reproduced by authorisation of Calamus licence 2274.

### **The Collect**

Let us pray:

O God, you graft us on to Christ, the true vine,  
and, with tireless care,  
you nurture our growth in knowledge and reverence.  
tend the vineyard of your Church,  
that in Christ each branch may bring forth to the glory of your  
name abundant fruits of faith and love.  
grant this through Jesus Christ,  
the resurrection and the life,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

*We sit for the first reading, Acts 8.26-end. At the end*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## ***The Gradual Psalm***

*We stand to sing*

**Earth's fragile beauties we possess  
as pilgrim gifts of God,  
And walk the slow and dangerous way  
his wounded feet have trod.  
Though faith by tragedy is rocked,  
and love with pain is scored,  
We sing the pilgrims' song of hope:  
'Your kingdom come, O Lord!'**

**Earth's human longings we possess  
by grief or love compelled  
to take and bear the heavy cross  
Christ's wounded hands have held.  
By cloud and fire he leads us on  
through famine, plague or sword,  
Singing with faith the pilgrims' song:  
'Your kingdom come, O Lord!'**

**God's own true image we possess  
in innocence first known,  
Now tainted by the hate and spite  
to Christ's own body shown.  
By that same wounded heart of love  
God's image is restored,  
To sing again the pilgrims' song:  
'Your kingdom come, O Lord!'**

Words: Robert Willis, b1947  
Music: KINGSFOLD

*We sit for the second reading, 1 John 15.1-8. At the end*

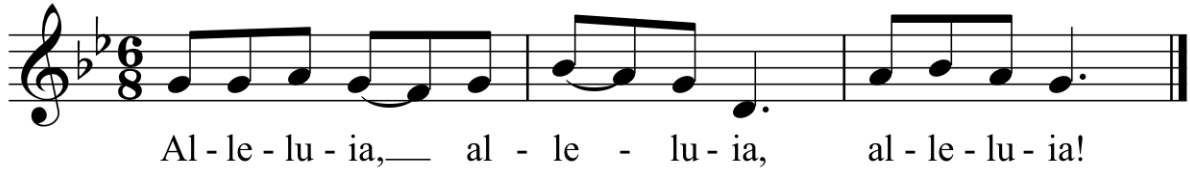
This is the word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**



## **Gospel Reading**

*We stand for the Alleluia which heralds the Gospel,  
John 15.1-8*

*The choir sings first and the congregation then joins in.*



*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***

Let us affirm our faith in the living God:

*All* **We believe in God, all-loving,  
Creator of the heavens and earth;  
Creator of all people who are made in God's likeness.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's anointed one, our God  
made flesh for all humanity; God made flesh in love and  
grace for all creation.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit through whom the living  
Christ makes God's presence known to all peoples and  
gives power to become a new creation, sharing in the  
gifts of God.**

**We believe in the Church which must be a sign of God's  
love and the coming of God's reign.**

**We believe in the reign of God when all creation will bear  
the fruits of God's love, and all people will sing the  
harmony of heaven.**

**And because we believe, we commit ourselves to love, to  
dream, to pray, to reach out, to build, until the day when  
that hope becomes a reality. Amen.**

*El Salvadorian Affirmation adapted from Justo Gonzalez*

## ***The Intercessions***

As we join in praise of the resurrection,  
we turn to God in prayer:

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***

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.'  
Alleluia!

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 and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. The collection is also taken and presented. 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.*

**My soul is filled with joy  
as I sing to God my Saviour:  
you have looked upon your servant,  
you have visited your people.**

***And holy is your name through all generations!  
Everlasting is your mercy  
to the people you have chosen,  
and holy is your name.***

**I am lowly as a child,  
but I know from this day forward  
that my name will be remembered,  
ev'ryone will call me blessed.**

*Refrain*

**I proclaim the pow'r of God!  
You do marvels for your servants;  
though you scatter the proud-hearted  
and destroys the might of princes.**

*Refrain*

**To the hungry you give food,  
send the rich away empty.  
In your mercy you is mindful  
of the people you have chosen.**

*Refrain*

**In your love you now fulfil  
what you promised to our forebears,  
I will praise you God, my saviour,  
everlasting is your mercy.**

***And holy is your name through all generations!  
Everlasting is your mercy  
to the people you have chosen,  
and holy is your name.***

Words: based on The Magnificat  
Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish Melody

Let us pray:

Faithful God,  
you love us with a mother's love;  
look kindly on your children as we gather in praise.  
Pour out your Spirit on all people, that we may live faithfully,  
inspire hope, show love,  
and raise a new song throughout all the earth.

*All* **Amen.**

*Christian Aid*

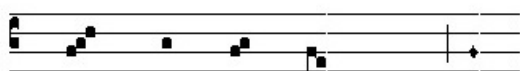
## *Sursum Corda*



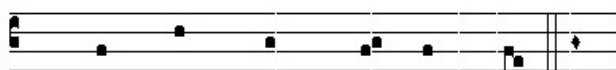
The Lord be with you



**And al-so with you.**



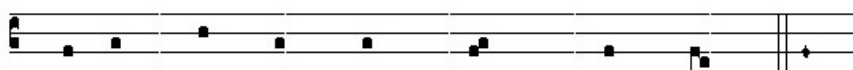
Lift up your hearts.



**We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 almighty and eternal Father,  
 and in these days of Easter  
 to celebrate with joyful hearts  
 the memory of your wonderful works.  
 For by the mystery of his passion  
 Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
 has conquered the powers of death and hell  
 and restored in men and women the image of your glory.  
 He has placed them once more in paradise  
 and opened to them the gate of life eternal.  
 And so, in the joy of this Passover,  
 earth and heaven resound with gladness,  
 while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation  
 sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might:  
 9 heav-en and earth, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, your pow'r and might. Ho -  
 17 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns, Ho -  
 25 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns.  
 33 Bles-sed, bles-sed is He who comes, bles-sed, bles-sed is He who comes,  
 41 bles-sed is He, bles-sed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord. Back to

© Paul Inwood, published by OCP Publications. Reproduced by authorisation of Calamus licence 2274.

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.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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 Mary the Mother of God,  
John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Kenelm,  
Frideswide, Mary Magdalene and all the saints  
and witnesses of the resurrection,  
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. **Amen.**

*We remain standing, as in reverence and praise we sing together:*

**The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ  
torn for you, eat and remember  
the wounds that heal  
the death that brings us life  
paid the price to make us one.**

***So we share in this bread of life  
and we drink of his sacrifice  
as a sign of our bonds of peace  
around the table of the King.***

**The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin  
shed for you, drink and remember  
he drained death's cup  
that all may enter in  
to receive the life of God.**

***So we share in this bread of life  
and we drink of his sacrifice  
as a sign of our bonds of peace  
around the table of the King.***

*Please sit*

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
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.**

## *The Breaking of the Bread*

*The Priest breaks the consecrated host*

We break this bread to share our unity with creation in  
Christ and to share in the creativity of God.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one creation,  
because we all share in the love of the creator.**

Je-sus, Lamb of God, Bread of Life for us; Je-sus Lamb of God, Wine of Joy for us;  
Source of un - i - ty; Pre-cious cor - ner - stone;  
Bread that makes us one; Wine that heals our pain;

5  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, bear-ing all our sins: have mer-cy on us, give us your peace.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*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***

**Alleluia, sing to Jesus,  
his the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluia, his the triumph,  
his the victory alone:  
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion  
thunder like a mighty flood,  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluia, not as orphans  
are we left I sorrow now;  
Alleluia, he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how;  
though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluia, Bread of Angels,  
thou on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia, here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day;  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia, King eternal,  
thee the Lord of Lords we own;  
Alleluia, born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within me the veil hast entered  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the Eucharistic Feast.**

Words: W. Chatterton Dix, 1837-98  
Music: HYFYDROL, R.H. Pritchard, 1811-1887

### ***The Post Communion Prayer***

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

**All Gracious God, let us recognise you here  
in the beauty of this morning and in its challenge;  
may the Risen One, your Shepherd-Lamb,  
lead us to act for your justice and peace:  
so that all may drink from your springs  
of the waters of life,  
and find their tears of sorrow and pain wiped away.  
In the name of the Risen One we pray: Amen.**

### ***The Notices***

*We sit for the notices*

## *Prayer of Farewell*

*We stand:*

*Toby:* O God, you have bound us together for a time as priests and people, to worship you for the advancement of your Kingdom in this place. We give you thanks for the ministry of mercy and kindness which we have shared in these years now past. We thank you for your forgiveness in the face of our failures.

*Sally:* Especially we thank you for your never-failing presence with us through the years, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have gained. We thank you for those who have been joined in this part of Christ's family through Baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your word and for feeding us with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus.

*A Child:* Let us pray in stillness for the voice of the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future with joy:

*A Warden:* Faithful God, inspire our hearts with eager anticipation of what the Spirit is saying to the Church in this benefice. Be with those who leave us and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the Communion of Blessed Mary and of all your Saints.

**All: We thank you especially for the priestly ministries of Sally and Toby among us, and for Caspar and Felicity. Grant that they, and we, may serve you in the days ahead, and always rejoice in your glory, until the time when we will all be joined into your heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

*We sing together:*

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise  
to respond, and to remember  
our call to follow  
in the steps of Christ  
as his body here on earth.**

***As we share in His suffering  
we proclaim Christ will come again!  
and we'll join in the feast of heaven  
around the table of the King!***

Behold the Lamb (Communion)  
Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend  
(c) 2007 Thank you music  
*Inspired by C.S. Lewis' Voyage of the Dawn Treader, from the  
Chronicles of Narnia - specifically Aslan's Table in the Island  
of the Star*

### ***The Blessing***

*We remain standing as one of the concelebrants gives the blessing*

Alleluia, Christ is risen.  
*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope  
and a new future,  
fill you with God's new life;  
and the blessing of God almighty  
✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
come down upon you and remain with you always.  
*All* **Amen.**

## ***The Dismissal***

We are raised to new life with Christ  
Go in his peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## ***The Recessional Hymn***

**O God of blessings, all praise to you!  
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.  
You are the freedom of those oppressed;  
You are the comfort of all distressed:  
Come now, O holy and welcome guest:  
*Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!***

**All praise for wisdom, great gift sublime,  
Through words and teachers of every time;  
For ancient stories and knowledge new,  
For coaches, mentors, and couns'ors true.  
Whose life of service brought us to you:  
*Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!***

**All praise for prophets, through grace inspired  
To preach and witness with hearts on fire.  
Your Spirit chooses the weak and small  
To Sing the new reign where mighty fall;  
With them may we live your Gospel call:  
*Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!***

**All praise for music, deep gift profound,  
Through hands and voices in holy sound:  
The psalms of David, and Mary's praise,  
In wordless splendour and lyric phrase.  
With all creation one song we raise:  
*Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!***

**All praise for Jesus, best gift divine,  
Through word and witness, in bread and wine;  
Incarnate Love Song of boundless grace,  
Priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,  
Your steadfast kindness with human face:  
*Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!***

**A billion voices in one great song,  
Now soft and gentle, now deep and strong,  
In ev'ry culture and style and key,  
From hill and valley, with sky and sea,  
With Christ we praise you eternally:  
*Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!***

Words and Music: Marty Haugen  
*Soli Deo Gloria* means To God alone be glory

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

*Please do all stay behind for drinks after the service*