

THE PARISH OF
WITNEY
St Mary
the Virgin



Called to be a community
of mercy and kindness

Sunday Next Before Lent
The Eucharist

Sunday 11 February 2024
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 six 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 the first hymn

Christ is the world's true light,
Its Captain of salvation,
The Day-star clear and bright
Of every race and nation;
New life, new hope awakes,
For all who own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks,
And night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
Their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete,
From sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord,
All shall forsake their fear,
To ploughshare bear the sword,
To pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name
Unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame
That hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long,
Has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong,
Come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Words: GW Briggs (1875-1959)

The Greeting

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

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.**

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:

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
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, 2 Kings 2.1-12. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

We stand to sing

Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.

Round the Lord in glory seated,
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:

'Lord, your glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fulness stored;
unto you be glory given:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!'

Heaven is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry:
'Holy, holy, holy' singing,
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high!'

With his seraphim before him,
with his holy church below,
thus united, we adore him,
let our glorious anthem flow:

'Lord, your glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fulness stored;
unto you be glory given:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!'

Words: Richard Mant (1776 - 1848)
© Jubilate Hymns Ltd

We sit for the second reading, 2 Corinthians 4.3-6. 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,
Luke 9.2-9. The choir sings first and the congregation then joins in.*

Alleluia

Tone II



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 *Mark*.
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 Creed

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church,
in which we pray we may all find grace to grow:

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Intercessions

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

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

All Merciful Father,
**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.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
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.

Light of the minds that know him,
may Christ be light to mine!
My sun in risen splendour,
my light of truth divine;
my guide in doubt and darkness,
my true and living way,
my clear light ever shining,
my dawn of heaven's day.

Life of the souls that love him,
may Christ be ours indeed!
The living Bread from heaven
on whom our spirits feed;
who died for love of sinners
to bear our guilty load,
and make of life's journey
a new Emmaus road.

Strength of the wills that serve him,
may Christ be strength to me,
who stilled the storm and tempest,
who calmed the tossing sea;
his Spirit's power to move me,
his will to master mine,
his cross to carry daily
and conquer in his sign.

May it be ours to know him
that we may truly love,
and loving, fully serve him
as serve the saints above;
till in that home of glory
with fadeless splendour bright,
we serve in perfect freedom
our strength, our life, our light.

Words: Timothy Dudley Smith,
based on a prayer of S Augustine
Music: KINGS LYNN

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus,
gentle and humble of heart,
full of compassion and maker of peace,
you lived in poverty and suffered persecution
for the cause of justice.
You chose the Cross as the path to glory
to show us the way of salvation.
May we who receive the gift of this sacrament live by your
example as heirs and citizens of your kingdom.

All **Amen**

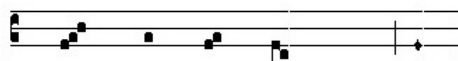
Sursum Corda



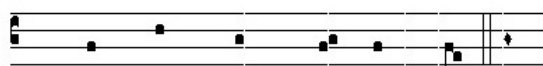
The Lord be with you



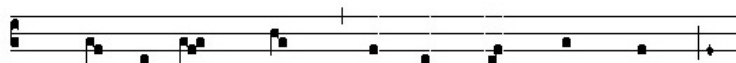
And al-so with you.



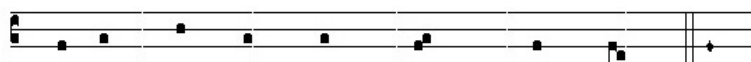
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

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.*

All

Great is the mystery of faith:
**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.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with Mary the Mother of God,
John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Frideswide 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

Made in God's image, and formed by God's love,
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.**

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.**

So come to this table
You who have much faith
And you would like to have more.
You who have been to this Sacrament often,
And you who have not been for a long time.
You who have followed Jesus.
And you who have failed. Come.

It is Christ who invites you to meet him here.
Wherever you are in your journey of faith,
You are welcome here at the Lord's table.

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

Soul of my Saviour sanctify my breast,
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with waters gushing from thy side.

Strength and protection may thy passion be,
O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
so shall I never, never part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
in death's dread moments make me only thine;
call me and bid me come to thee on high
where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.

Words: Latin 14th century
Music: ANIMA CHRISTI

The Post Communion Prayer

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

All **Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know
his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Blessing

We stand

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May God whose glory fills the heavens cleanse you by God's holiness, strengthen you in your ministries and send you to proclaim God's word; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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

The Recessional Hymn

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!

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*

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light, *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: *Refrain*

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

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

Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.

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.

