

THE PARISH OF
WITNEY



St Mary
the Virgin



Week of Prayer for Unity

The Eucharist

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 23 January 2022

10.45am

called to be a
community of
mercy and kindness



**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.

**A particular welcome on this the week of prayer for
Christian Unity - when we long for that unity which is
God's gift and God's will.**

**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 Processional Hymn

Come, let us join our cheerful songs
with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
but all their joys are one.

'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,
'to be exalted thus';
'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply,
'for he was slain for us.'

Jesus is worthy to receive
honour and power divine;
and blessings, more than we can give,
be, Lord, for ever thine.

Let all that dwell above the sky,
and air, and earth, and seas,
conspire to lift thy glories high,
and speak thine endless praise.

The whole creation joins in one
to bless the sacred name
of him that sits upon the throne,
and to adore the Lamb.

Words: Isaac Watts, b1674

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 priest welcomes everyone and the children go to their activities

The Confession

In the presence of the God of us all,
we meet together to give thanks for the spiritual unity
which is already ours as members of the Body of Christ.
Let us acknowledge our sin,
that this unity may, by God's grace, become a visible unity,
so that the Church in every place may demonstrate
the healing power of the gospel, and be an instrument of
God's peace in the life of the world.

All **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
and against one another,
in thought, and word, and deed.
We are truly sorry for our pride,
and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love.
We repent of our narrow-mindedness,
of our bitterness and our prejudices.
Pardon and forgive us,
save us and renew us,
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May almighty God cleanse you from sin ✠
and make you worthy of the kingdom of light and glory.
Amen.

The Gloria

To begin, the choir sings the refrain then the congregation joins the 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.

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**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.

The Collect

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world.

Forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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, Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We remain seated to sing

The Gradual Chant

809 There Is One Lord

Ostinato Refrain

There is one Lord, one faith, one bap - tis - m,
There is one God who is Fa - ther of all.

We sit for the second reading, *1 Corinthians 12.12-31a*. 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 4.14-21*.



Verse (choir)



The choir sings first and the congregation then joins in:

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.

At the end

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

The Sermon

The Intercessions

We sit or kneel to pray

Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints,
 let us make our prayers for the universal Church
 to the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, saying:

Lord, come to bless us
All and fill us with your Spirit.

At the end:

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 stand

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles,
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.'
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and grant it that peace and unity which is according to your will.

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

As the following hymn is sung the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the Altar and placed upon it. The bread and wine are 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.

This hymn was written by Charles Wesley and published in a booklet called 'Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution', during a period when the Methodists were facing cruel abuse. As we sing this hymn we pray for the unity of God's Church and all facing persecution in our day.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful Name;
the Name all-victorious of Jesus extol:
his kingdom is glorious; he rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh: his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

The waves on the sea have lift up their voice,
sore troubled that we in Jesus rejoice;
the floods they are roaring, but Jesus is here;
while we are adoring, He always is near.

When devils engage, the billows arise,
and horribly rage, and threaten the skies;
their fury shall never our steadfastness shock,
the weakest believer is built on a rock.

Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right:
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1768
Music: LAUDATE DOMINUM, H.J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

Let us pray:

God of power and love,
by your Holy Spirit,
draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity
and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

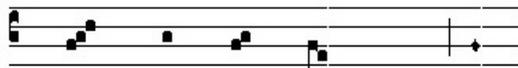
Sursum Corda



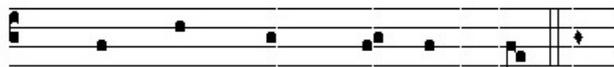
The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



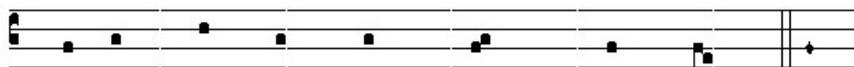
Lift up your hearts.



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

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.
By him, your only Son,
who restored to us peace through the blood of his
cross, you willed to reconcile all creatures.
In him you have led us to the knowledge of your truth,
that bound together by one faith and one baptism we
might become his body.
Through him you have given your Holy Spirit to all
peoples to work marvels by innumerable gifts
and an abundant variety of graces.
Gathering us together in unity,
your Spirit dwells in the hearts of all your children,
filling the whole Church with his presence
and guiding it with wisdom from above.
And so, with steadfast love,
we proclaim your glory
and join with hosts of angels
in their triumphant hymn of praise:

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

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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,
Cyril, Methodius and all the saints,
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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
let us join with all God's people as 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 ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

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;

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

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Here is the table of our God, where all are welcome. Here we are gathered to God's Kingdom meal, a foretaste of things eternal. Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love. Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole. Come, old and young, there is room for all as we travel into the future.

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.

*One bread, one body,
one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless:
and we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

Many the gifts,
many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

Grain for the fields,
scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all. *Refrain*

John Foley
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Hymn

"Hear my prayer for unity," Jesus prayed for all his own.
"May these ones you've given me live the love that I have shown.
Mine are yours and yours are mine; in them I am glorified!
Now I send them as a sign; so may they be unified."

God, we live in great discord, torn by issues we hold dear;
Even as we call you Lord, we still cling to pride and fear.
Bound together, we'd be free; we could join in serving you!
For the best theology starts when love makes all things new.

By your Spirit, make us one; so the world will come to know
All the love of Christ the Son, all your joys that overflow.
Help us put aside our strife; give your Church a humble mind!
Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, strengthen now the ties that
bind.

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Music: ABERYSTWYTH Joseph Parry 1841-1903

The Post Communion Prayer

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

Eternal God
whose Son at supper prayed that his disciples might be one,
as he is one with you;
draw us closer to him,
that in common love and obedience to you
we may be united to one another
in the fellowship of the one Spirit,
that the world may believe that he is Lord,
to your eternal glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you
all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Blessing

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
teach you to walk in his way more trustfully,
to accept his truth more faithfully,
and to share his life more lovingly;
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.
And the blessing of God almighty
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Marked with the sign of the cross in baptism
you accepted the freedom and power God gives
to resist evil, injustice and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves.
Go forth in the freedom and power of the Holy Spirit
to resist the evil and injustice inflicted on others,
especially sisters and brothers in Christ.
Pray for them.
In one another's company
find ways to act in love toward them.

All We are sent in Christ's name!

*UMC Discipleship Ministries
from a service of prayer for Persecuted Christians*

The Recessional Hymn

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on ev'ry page;
our forebears owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade them rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in ev'ry deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the vict'ry shall be won;
and then, by all creation,
thy name shall be adored.
And this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1821-91
Music: THORNBURY, Basil Harwood, 1859-1949

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