

THE PARISH OF  
WITNEY



St Mary  
the Virgin



Sunday Next before Lent  
**The Eucharist**  
Sunday February 15th 2026  
10.45am

**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.

**If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards. We also have Welcome Packs available with more information – please ask!**

*This service is live-streamed. If you do not want to appear on the stream please speak to the Welcomers or Duty Wardens.*

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Wednesdays in Lent:**  
**Discussion Group - Thinking about Worship, Thinking about God**  
Join members of the clergy team for teaching and discussion about what we do on a Sunday morning and how that links to what we think about God. 7.00pm, Winchester Room, St. Mary's Church.

**Ash Wednesday Services (February 18<sup>th</sup>):**

- **11.00am – Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**  
St. Mary's Church
- **11.45am onwards – Ashes to Go**  
Witney Town Centre
- **7.30pm – Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**  
Holy Trinity, Woodgreen

For spiritual counsel or sacramental confession in preparation for Lent please contact Hester or Chris.

## The Procession

*As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the first hymn.*

*Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,  
Word of the Father, calling us to life;  
Son of God who leads us to freedom:  
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;  
You are the Word who leads us into light;  
You are the Word who brings us through the desert:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
*Praise to you...*

You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;  
You are the one who speaks to us today;  
You are the one who leads us to our future:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
*Praise to you...*

You are the Word who calls us to be servants;  
You are the Word whose only law is love;  
You are the Word made flesh who lives among us:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
*Praise to you...*

You are the Word who binds us and unites us;  
You are the Word who calls us to be one;  
You are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
*Praise to you...*

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell

## 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.*

## Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

*After a short silence, all say*

**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.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*We sing together:*

**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 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, Exodus 24.12-end.*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Psalm

*The choir sings and the congregation repeats, also between verses*



Music© 2018 The Royal School of Church Music.  
RSCM Responsorial Psalms are a benefit of membership of the RSCM.

*We sit for the Second Reading, 2 Peter 1.16-end.*

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

*We stand as the choir sings the Gospel Alleluia, and we repeat:*

**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

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

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

*Matthew 17.1-9*

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

## The Sermon

## The Creed

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church:

**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.

## Intercessions

*The Intercessor may use the following response:*

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer.**

Most Merciful God

**All Accept these prayers  
For the sake of your Son  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

*All stand*

## The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers:  
they shall be called children of God.  
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace

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

Let us offer one another a 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.*

**You can give to the work of the Church by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, or by using these bank details** - Witney PCC, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 00971626. There is also a card reader by the North Door, 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.

Alleluya, sing to Jesus,  
his the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluya, 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.

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

Alleluya, 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.

Alleluya, 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: HYFRYDOL

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Blessed be God,  
who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor,  
who fills our praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

### **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**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;

he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

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  
**All 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,  
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.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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 in the Body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;  
happy are those who are called to his supper

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word  
and I shall be healed.**

*All who are used to receiving Communion are welcome to do so here  
– please make your way to the altar as directed by the Sidesperson.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please approach the president carrying this booklet. Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

## **The Communion Hymn**

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
a new community of love,  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.

Words: Brian Wren, b1936  
Music: ST BOTOLPH, Gordon Slater 1896-1979

## Post Communion Prayer

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.

**All Amen**

**All Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

**The Notices**

**The Blessing**

*Please stand for the Blessing*

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

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## The Recessional 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.

### *Organ extemporisation*

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)  
Music: DARMSTADT

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



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