

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

128th Dedication Festival



The Parish Mass

Sunday 26th September 2021

10.15 am

¶ Let's keep protecting each other

We're so grateful for everything you've done to help keep each other safe. Every time you've sanitised your hands, worn a face covering and kept a safe distance, it's made a real difference. So from all of us, thank you. We all hope and pray brighter days are coming. But we want to reassure you that your safety is still our top priority.

The Government guidance, endorsed by the Church of England, 'expects and recommends' that we continue to:

Wear a face covering whilst in church unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This should cover your nose as well as your mouth.

Maintain physical distancing Couples, households and former 'bubbles' may sit together. Otherwise, we ask you to respect one another's space, spread out, and avoid sitting directly behind or in front of others. As far as possible, we ask you to avoid physical contact with other people and surfaces.

Sanitise your hands on arrival - pick up an order of service (large print editions may be requested in advance via the parish office) – and sign in for 'Test and Trace' purposes.

The church toilet facilities are available for use.

Holy Communion will be administered in one 'kind' only, standing, at one or two 'stations' at the front of the nave. Please approach via the centre aisle and return via the side aisles. For mutual protection, we ask that you keep your face covering on until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.

If you have difficulty being mobile please let us know, sit on the end of a row, and we will come to you.

After the service please depart via the main porch sanitising your hands as you leave. In fine weather, we invite you to join us for social interaction on the green at the east end.

* * * * *



¶ 128th Dedication Festival

According to ancient custom church buildings are dedicated to the service of God by solemn consecration in the course of a special ceremony at which a bishop presides. Henry VIII, in 1536, ordered that the Feast of Dedication should be kept ‘throughout this realm’ of England on the first Sunday in October, an injunction still followed to this day if the date of consecration is not known.

The Parish Church of St Matthew, Northampton was dedicated on St Matthew’s Day, Thursday 21st September 1893, by the Bishop of Peterborough, Mandell Creighton. He also instituted The Revd John Rowden Hussey as first Vicar.

This anniversary of the dedicated church building reminds us that it is Domus Ecclesiae, the ‘House of the Church’, the house of God’s pilgrim people. God’s Church is the community of the baptised, rather than a building. We are the People of God called to serve him by living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world, to be ‘living stones’, and so nurture and grow his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Setting

Communion Service in F

Herbert Sumsion (1928-1967)

**Our thanks are due to Ros Catlin
who has generously financed
the production of this week’s service booklet.**

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

*The bell is rung and all are asked to **STAND***

The servers form up in the centre aisle in front of the baptistry

Introit

Locus iste *Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)*

Translation:

Choir *This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament;
it is without reproach.*

Incense is blessed

Please turn to face the porch

Introduction

At the south west door

Priest How awesome is this place!

All **This is none other than the house of God.**

In every age, God's people have been inspired to build and sanctify houses of prayer for the celebration of the sacred mysteries. With joy and gratitude we give thanks to God for the dedication of this Parish Church of St Matthew 128 years ago, for the foresight and generosity of benefactors, and for all who in the intervening years have faithfully offered here their prayer, worship and praise.

Today, as we rededicate ourselves to the service of Christ, we pray that we may be worthy of this inheritance, and continue along the pilgrim way until our hope is fulfilled in the eternal city of God.

Hymn

The procession enters

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
And the precious corner-stone,
Who, the two walls underlying,
Bound in each, binds both in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved by God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody,
God the One, in Threefold glory,
Singing everlastingly.**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With thy wonted loving-kindness,
Hear thy people as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls for ay.**

**Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
Gifts of grace by prayer to gain;
Here to have and hold for ever,
Those good things their prayers obtain,
And hereafter, in thy glory,
With thy blessed ones to reign.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

The Greeting

Peace be to this house
All **and to all who worship in spirit and in truth.**

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

We are the temple of God's indwelling Holy Spirit,
yet we have grieved him.
The temple of our bodies does not belong to us,
but was bought with the price of Christ's precious blood.
So we come, in sorrow yet with confidence,
to ask forgiveness of our heavenly Father.

Kyrie Confession

Zeal for your house has eaten me up:
and the taunts of those who taunt you have fallen on me.
Kyrie eleison.
All **Kyrie eleison.**

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God:
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
Christe eleison.
All **Christe eleison.**

The Lord will defend your going out and your coming in:
from this time forward for evermore.
Kyrie eleison.
All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon † and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir *Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.*

*We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art the Most High,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
to whose glory we celebrate
the dedication of this house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship here;
and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you,
and being filled with the Holy Spirit
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Please be seated

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner',

and

‘A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2.1-10

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm



I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem;

All **How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord God of hosts.**

Jerusalem, built as a city that is at unity in itself.
Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there are set the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.

All **How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord God of hosts.**

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
‘May they prosper who love you.
‘Peace be within your walls
and tranquillity within your palaces.’

All **How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord God of hosts.**

For my kindred and companions' sake,
I will pray that peace be with you.
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.

All **How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord God of hosts.**

Psalms 122

Please stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



Lord, we love the house of your habitation
and the place where your glory abides.

All **Alleluia.**

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.

All

The festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.'

John 10.22-29

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

All

The Homily

Please be seated

The Nicene Creed

Please stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.**

*All may
bow* ***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.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest The risen Christ is here in the midst of us.
We bring these our prayers to him as Lord of the Church:

Please sit

Intercessor For the Church universal,
of which this building is a visible symbol,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For this congregation as we remember your promise
that when two or three are gathered in your name
you are there in the midst of them,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For the fulfilling of our desire and petitions as you see best for us,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For your blessings in the past and for a vision of the future,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For the pardon of our sins when we fall short of your glory,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For a foretaste of your eternal kingdom
in the sacrament of the Eucharist,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For the blessing of our vows
and the crowning of our years with your goodness,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For the faith of those who have gone before us,
for grace to persevere like them,
and for the sick and all in need of our prayers, N ...
and those who care for them,

All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For our benefactors
and all who have died in the peace of Christ, recently N ...,
those whose anniversary occurs at this time N ...,
and all who are at rest,

All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For fellowship with Christ's apostles,
for Matthew, our titular patron,
for the prayers of Mary, and of all the heavenly host,

All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

Priest O God, from living and chosen stones
you prepared an everlasting dwelling-place for your majesty.
Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit
those who serve you here
may always be kept within your presence.
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please stand

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Peace to this house from God our heavenly Father.
Peace to this house from his Son who is our peace.
Peace to this house from the Holy Spirit the life-giver.

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

With an appropriate gesture, let us offer one another a sign
of Christ's peace.

Hymn

WITH all who in this hallowed place
Their lifelong homage paid,
Who sang of God's redeeming grace,
Who worshipped here and prayed,
We come, as down the years they came,
And lift our hearts today
To Christ for evermore the same,
Our new and living Way.

He comes to meet us in our need,
The Bread of life divine,
On him alone our spirits feed
In story, song and sign;
The Lord alike of age and youth,
The living Word is he,
The rock of everlasting Truth
Who sets his people free.

Here may the Spirit's fruit be known
In peace and joy and love,
Where all on whom his breath is blown
Are born from God above;
In Christ from sin and death restored
And from the grave to rise,
We worship him, the living Lord,
The Life which never dies.

O God of grace, in this our day
May Christ his church renew,
To live his life, to walk his way,
And to his truth be true.
So send us out with hearts aflame
To tell his praise abroad,
And to a weary world proclaim
The love of Christ the Lord.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Tune: St Matthew
William Croft (1678-1727)

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, as we recall the day you filled this church
with your glory and holiness,
may our lives also become an acceptable offering to you.
Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All 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,
enthroned upon the praises of your people.

We thank you for this house of prayer,
in which you bless your family as we come to you in pilgrimage.
Here you reveal your presence in sacramental signs,
and make us one with you through the unseen bond of grace.

Here you build your temple of living stones,
and bring the Church to its full stature
as the body of Christ throughout the world,
to reach its perfection at last in the heavenly city of Jerusalem,
which is the vision of your peace.

Therefore, in union with the heavenly Jerusalem,
with angels in joyful assembly,
with all whose names are written in heaven,
and with the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
we lift up our voices to join in the triumphal song of praise:

Choir *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.*

*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Please remain standing

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;

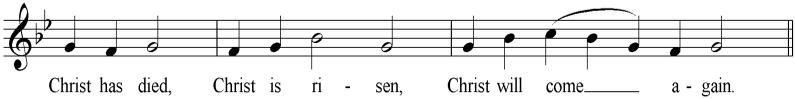
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

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:



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.
Welcome into your kingdom
all who have faithfully worshipped you in this house of prayer
and left this world in your friendship.
In the company with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
Matthew our patron, and all the saints,
may we with them 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



The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

Please be seated

The Lord's Prayer

As we have waited for your loving-kindness, O God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

All We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Choir *O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

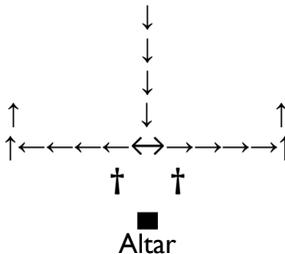
All

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

Giving of Communion

Bring us, O Lord, into the gate of heaven to dwell in that house
where there shall be no darkness but one eternal light.

Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing at a 'station', as indicated. Please approach the priest via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles whilst maintaining physical distancing.



Spiritual Communion – for those at home

It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:

Act of Reception

In union, blessed Jesus,
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

(and remembering particularly my own parish)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.
Amen.

Motet

How lovely are thy dwellings fair *Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

Choir *How lovely are thy dwellings fair, O Lord of Hosts.
My soul ever longeth and fainteth sore for the blest courts of the Lord:
My heart and flesh do cry to the living God.
O blest are they that in Thy house are dwelling:
They ever praise Thee, O Lord, for evermore.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

All stand

Father in heaven,
whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace,
an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem:
grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage
that, fed with the living bread of heaven,
and united in the body of your Son,
we may be the temple of your presence,
the place of your glory on earth,
and a sign of your peace in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Hymn

**Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.**

Words: *Nun danket alle Gott*, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)
Trans Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music: Nun Danket
Melody by Johann Crüger in *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, 1647
harmony chiefly by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy *Lobgesang*, 1840

Notices for the Community

All sit

¶ Sending Out

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
and has assembled you to recall the dedication
of this house of prayer
cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word.
All **Amen.**

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace
that you may become one temple of his body.
All **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
dwell within you
and equip you and give you joy in your ministry.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Like living stones, precious in his sight,
go in peace to proclaim the mighty acts of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Final from Symphonie VI op 42 Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)

The procession departs

*Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish
to listen to the organ voluntary.*

Collection

*We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission
of St Matthew's Church using the receptacle provided at the back of church.*

*If you are a tax payer, please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the
details in order that our parish may in addition benefit from the Gift Aid
associated with your giving.*

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

Michaelmas
The Feast of St Michael and All Angels
Wednesday 29th September

7.30pm The Parish Mass

Sung by the Swarbrick Singers

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