

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

132nd Dedication Festival



The Parish Mass

Principal Celebrant and Preacher
The Right Reverend John Stroyan

Sunday 28 September 2025

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

Live streaming Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.

GDPR Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.

Toilet and baby changing facilities may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

For younger children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

* * * * *

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



¶ 132nd Dedication Festival

According to ancient custom church buildings are dedicated to the service of God by act of 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, however, consecrated and dedicated to the glory of God on St Matthew’s Day, Thursday 21st September 1893, by the Bishop of Peterborough, The Right Reverend Mandell Creighton. He also instituted The Reverend John Rowden Hussey as first Vicar.

Three years before, a local brewer, Pickering Phipps II 1827-1890, died. He had twice been Mayor of Northampton between 1860 and 1866, and twice an MP. Mr Phipps had already indicated that he would give land for the erection of a church and vicarage in the new estate known as Phippsville. His four daughters and only son (of the same name, Pickering Phipps III, 1861-1937) decided to carry out their father’s wishes, and to erect a great church in his memory. Their munificence has been of enduring benefit not only to the people of Northampton, but also to the wider Church.

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

* * * * *

Setting

Missa Brevis

Grayston Ives b 1948

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *The bell is rung, and all are asked to **stand***

Introit

The sanctuary party enters. The servers form up in the centre aisle

The sacred ministers stand on the dais facing the congregation

Incense is blessed

Choir Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.

*This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament,
it is irreproachable.*

Music Anton Bruckner 1824-1896

Introduction

Bishop 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 great joy and gratitude, we give thanks

for the dedication of this Parish Church of St Matthew 132 years ago;

for the foresight and generosity of benefactors,

and for those who in each generation

have faithfully committed themselves to the service of Christ
and witnessed to the Gospel.

Inspired by their example of prayer, worship and action,
we look to the future,

and rededicate ourselves to walk in the way of Christ.

As we continue our journey along the pilgrim way

may we glimpse the eternal destiny in the city of the living God.

The bishop intones

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

All

Processional Hymn

All

BLESSED city, heavenly Salem,
Vision dear of peace and love,
Who, of living stones upbuilt,
Art the joy of heaven above,
And, with angel cohorts circled,
As a bride dost earthward move!

Many a blow and biting sculpture
Fashioned well those stones elect,
In their places now compacted
By the heavenly architect,
Who therewith hath willed for ever
That his palace should be decked.

Christ is made the sure foundation,
And the precious cornerstone,
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.**

Words Latin, 6th or 7th century
tr John Mason Neale 1818-1866

Music Westminster Abbey
adapted by Ernest Hawkins 1802-1868
from Henry Purcell 1659-1695
O God, thou art my God

† 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 vicar introduces the service

Invitation to Confession

Priest 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.

Silence for personal reflection

Confession

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.**

Absolution

Bishop 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

| | |
|--|--|
| Gloria in excelsis Deo | <i>Glory to God in the highest</i> |
| et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. | <i>and on earth peace to men of goodwill.</i> |
| Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. | <i>We praise you. We bless you.</i> |
| Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. | <i>We worship you. We glorify you.</i> |
| Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. | <i>We give thanks to you for your great glory.</i> |
| Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, | <i>Lord God, heavenly King,</i> |
| Deus Pater omnipotens, | <i>almighty God the Father,</i> |
| Domine Filii unigenite, Jesu Christe. | <i>O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.</i> |
| Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. | <i>Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.</i> |
| Qui tollis peccata mundi, | <i>You take away the sins of the world,</i> |
| miserere nobis. | <i>have mercy on us.</i> |
| Qui tollis peccata mundi, | <i>You take away the sins of the world,</i> |
| suscipe deprecationem nostram. | <i>receive our prayer.</i> |
| Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, | <i>You sit at the right hand of the Father,</i> |
| miserere nobis. | <i>have mercy on us.</i> |
| Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. | <i>For you only are holy. You only are the Lord.</i> |

Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*You only are the most high, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Collect

Bishop 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.

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Reader A reading from the First Book of the Chronicles.

The leaders of ancestral houses made their freewill-offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. They gave for the service of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly.

Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: 'Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, for ever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.'

I Chronicles 29.6-14

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm



Choir 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; **Response**

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. **Response**

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

Psalms 122

New Testament Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2.19-22

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

§ *Stand*

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



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

All **Alleluia.**

§ *We turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

Priest The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.



The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 2.13-22

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

§ Sit

The Right Reverend John Stroyan
Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough

At the end, the bishop returns to his chair, and we remain seated for a time of personal reflection

The Nicene Creed

§ We stand with the bishop

Bishop 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.**

Admission of New Choristers

The vicar, director of music, and choristers gather in front of the nave altar. The director of music introduces the ceremony, and presents the probationers to the vicar

Director Father Nicholas, I present to you Theodore Moore and Vera Gorboff Campana to be admitted as choristers in the Choir of St Matthew's Church.

Vicar Theo and Vera,
do you wish to become choristers in our choir?

Probationers **Yes, I do.**

Vicar As a chorister in the choir here at St Matthew's you are part of a century-old tradition of worship offered to God in this place. Do you promise to devote your effort and skill to helping others in their worship?

Probationers **With the help of God, I will.**

Vicar Do you promise to perform your part in the worship of God to the best of your ability?

Probationers **With the help of God, I will.**

Vicar Do you promise to be faithful in fulfilling all the duties involved in being a member of the choir?

Probationers **With the help of God, I will.**

Vicar Theo and Vera, I admit you as Choristers in the choir of this church, in the name of God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The new choristers receive their surplices

Vicar The Lord has given you musical gifts;
may he also give you happiness in his service;
may he bless you and keep you from this day forward
and give you his peace.

All **Amen.**

All **Bless, O Lord, your servants
who make music in this Church of St Matthew.
May they inspire our worship
and hold fast to the vision of a heavenly Jerusalem.
Grant that what they sing with their lips
they may believe in their hearts,
and that what they believe in their hearts
they may show forth in their lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

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

§ *Kneel*

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, (*the acutely ill ...*)
and those who care for them,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For our benefactors,
for former worshippers,
and all who have died in the peace of Christ, recently *N ...*,
for those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time *N ...*,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

For fellowship with Christ's apostles,
for Matthew, our patron,
for the prayers of Blessed Mary, and of all the heavenly host,
All **Lord, receive our thanks and praise.**

Bishop 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.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Bishop 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.

Priest Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought to the dais step and given to the presiding priest, and the altar is prepared.*

§ *A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

Hymn

All **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 1926-2024

Music 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

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of power and might.
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domine.
Osanna in excelsis

*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:



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 of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
 Matthew the apostle, 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

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

As we wait 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

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| <i>Choir</i> | Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. | <i>Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.</i> |
| | Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. | <i>Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.</i> |
| | Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem. | <i>Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.</i> |

Invitation to Communion

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

§ *Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches
are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.*

§ *Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet
with you as a sign.*

Spiritual Communion – for those at home

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

Choir We wait for thy loving kindness, O God

William McKie 1901-1984

Hymn

In thanksgiving for former worshippers

All **IN our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer
For the saints who before us have found their reward;
When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,
But now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.**

**In the morning of life, and at noon, and at even,
He called them away from our worship below;
But not till his love, at the font and the altar,
Had girt them with grace for the way they should go.**

**These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,
And dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;
Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,
And still they were seeking the city of God.**

**Sing praise then, for all who here sought and here found him,
Whose journey is ended, whose perils are past;
They believed in the light; and its glory is round them,
Where the clouds of earth's sorrows are lifted at last.**

Words William Henry Draper 1855-1933

*Music St Catherine's Court
Richard Strutt 1848-1927*

§ *All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *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

All

**CHRIST is our corner-stone,
On him alone we build;
With his true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled.
On his great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.**

**O then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The three in one to sing;
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious Name.**

**Here, gracious God, do thou
For evermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow,
And mark each suppliant sigh;
In copious shower
On all who pray
Each holy day
Thy blessings pour.**

**Here may we gain from heaven
The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
Be with us evermore,
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.**

Words John Chandler 1806-1876
based on Latin, 6th or 7th cent,
Angularis fundamentum

Music Harewood
Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-1876

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **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

Priest Like living stones, precious in his sight,
go in peace to proclaim the mighty acts of God.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in G BWV 541

J S Bach 1685-1750

- § *Please remain standing until the procession has departed. Thank you.*
- § *Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.*
- § *Refreshments are being served in church, please do join us.*
- § *If you are a newcomer to the parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.*

I 32nd Dedication Festival

**This evening at 5.30 pm
Solemn Choral Evensong**

Tomorrow at 7.30 pm

Michaelmas

The Feast of St Michael and All Angels

Procession and The Parish Mass

Our thanks are due to Christine Bentley
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.

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

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