

# All Age Eucharist



6<sup>th</sup> July 2025

*Please leave in church to reuse next time and to reduce the amount of paper we use.*

[www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)



# Welcome to St John's, Harpenden

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

On this Sunday morning:

We have come together in the name of Christ,  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
to exchange the Peace,  
pray the Eucharistic prayer,  
break the bread,  
receive communion and  
depart with God's blessing  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

People of all ages are welcome at all of our services as a full part of God's family, and this service is especially aimed at being something we can all take part in together.



During this service we invite all, as they are able, to help contribute to the cost of running this church so that we might show God's love to those around us.



There is an Induction Loop in the church, for those using a hearing aid



**Large print** orders of service are available on request. Please ask a welcomer



Please join us for refreshments in the church hall immediately after the service

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN - 510** Will you come and follow me

1. Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me

## WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Christ,  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**All and also with you**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said*

**We Confess**  
*We say sorry to God*

Jesus said, 'Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.' As sisters and brothers in God's family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

Like as the hart longs for flowing streams,  
so longs my soul for you, O God:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

O send out your light and your truth,  
that they may lead me:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

May we come to your altar, O God, the God of our salvation:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**We sing God's glory!**

*We stand to sing God's praise (this is not sung during Advent and Lent)*

Refrain: Gloria (*clap, clap*), Gloria (*clap, clap*), in excelsis Deo

1. Lord God, heavenly King, peace you bring to us; we worship you we  
give you thanks, we sing our song of praise

2. Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all.

3. At the Fathers right hand, Lord receive our Prayer,  
for you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.

4. Glory, Father and Son, Glory Holy Spirit,  
to you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.

## **The Collect**

*We remain standing to say the special prayer for today*

Let us pray

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

## **We Listen**

*Please sit as we hear from the Bible*

**First Reading** Luke 15.1-7 read by Jim McGown

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he told them this parable: ‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn – 757 One More Step

1. One more step along the world I go,  
One more step along the world I go;  
From the old things to the new,  
Keep me traveling along with you.

[Refrain]  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me traveling along with you.

2. Round the corners of the world I turn,  
More and more about the world I learn;  
All the new things that I see,  
You'll be looking at along with me. [Refrain]

3. As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me traveling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go,  
you'll be telling me the way, I know. [Refrain]

4. Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough;  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you. [Refrain]

5. You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me;  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you. [Refrain]

*please stand*

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 15.11-24**

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

Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

*At the end of the reading:*

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

## **We Learn**

*We explore together what God is saying to us today with a talk, normally led by a member of the ministry team*

## **We Believe**

*We stand to say together what we believe about God*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the  
people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## **We Pray**

*Sit or kneel for the **INTERCESSIONS** read by Liz Macdonald*

*We pray together for the world, our community and those in need.*

*After each petition:*

**Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer**

**Or**

**Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us.**

## We Welcome

There is one Lord, one Faith,  
One baptism; by one Spirit we are all  
Baptised into one body.

**All** We welcome you into the fellowship of the faith,  
We are children of the same heavenly father; we welcome you.

## We share God's Peace

*We stand to share in the peace*

We are the Body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All** And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We offer each other a sign of peace, either a wave or a hand shake.*

## Offertory Hymn – 748 O Jesus I have promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me feel thee near me:  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

5. O let me see thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
Young people are encouraged to stand around the altar*

With this bread that we bring  
**All We shall remember Jesus**

With this wine that we bring  
**All We shall remember Jesus**

Bread for his body  
Wine for his blood  
Gifts from God to this table we bring.  
**All We shall remember Jesus.**

**We Give Thanks**  
*God makes the bread and wine holy for us*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.  
**All His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.  
When we turned away you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.  
**All You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

## The Lord's Prayer

*Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us*

*Please remain kneeling or sitting.*

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.  
And 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.

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread*

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.

## Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*The president and people receive communion. All full members of Christian Churches are warmly invited to receive communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward carrying this booklet with you. Authorised words of distribution are used and the communicant replies 'Amen'*

### Choir Anthem: Jubilate Deo – Mozart (arr Alan Bullard)

- 451 Just as I am

1. Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

2. Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

4. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

5. Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

6. Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining  
and whose power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen**

**All** We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
**Amen.**

## NOTICES

### Final Hymn – 721 Love Divine

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.

2. Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

3. Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.

4. Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

5. Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;

6. Changed from glory into glory  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## Blessing

Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread  
Make you one in praise and love,  
And raise you up at the last day  
And the blessing...

## Dismissal

Go in peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

*The ministers and people depart*

All are invited to join us for refreshments in the Church Hall after the service

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