

Welcome to St Margaret's Church Ifield Loved as you are



Sunday 28th January 2024 Epiphany 4 The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Everyone is welcome to St Margaret's. In this service of the Eucharist we remember with thanksgiving the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and his self-giving for the sins of the whole world. As the bread and wine are offered, symbols of that self-giving, so we offer ourselves to God and receive at communion the life of Christ. So nourished, we are enabled to go out into the world to live in the service of God.

As we gather before the service, we speak to God. During the service, we let God speak to us. After the service, we speak to each other.

THE GATHERING

As we gather together

Pastorale BWV 590 1st Movement Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Processional Hymn

The People that in darkness sat a glorious light have seen; The light has shined on them who long in shades of death have been.

To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness, the gathering nations come; The joy as when the reapers bear their harvest treasurers home.

For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given, And on his shoulder ever rests all power in earth and heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace the everlasting Lord, The Wonderful, the Counsellor, the God by all adored. His righteous government and power shall over all extend; On judgement and on justice based, his reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us thine alone, Who with the Father ever art and Holy Spirit one.

Words: Based on Is 9:2-7 John Morrison 1750-1798

Music: Melody from 'The CL Psalms of David' Edinburgh 1615

THE GREETING

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

and also with you.

WORDS OF WELCOME

THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. 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.

Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those who love him well; on the earth let all his people speak his grace, his wonders tell. Lord, we praise you for your glory, Mighty Father, heaven's king; hear our joyful adoration and accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father, Lamb who takes our sins away, now with him in triumph seated for your mercy, Lord we pray. Jesus Christ, most high and holy, Saviour, you are God alone in the glory of the Father with the Spirit: Three in One!

Words: Michael Perry b. 1942 Music: Adapted from 9th Symphony, Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827

THE COLLECT

The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words, 'Let us pray.' The Collect is said, and all respond, Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First Reading

Malachi 3.1-5

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.14-end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Chorale: 'The Kingdom of God is justice and joy in the Holy Spirit.' Ps 24 Stephen C Horsman b. 1961

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2.22-40

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please remain standing until the preacher has introduced the Sermon

THE SERMON

Please stand

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers for the Church, the world, and for all human need. After each petition the following response is used:

Lord, in your mercy Hear our prayer

and at the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Please stand

The priest introduces the sign of Peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Presentation of the Gifts

During the Offertory hymn the bread and wine and the collection are brought to the altar and the altar is prepared

During the Preparation of the Table

Restore, O Lord, the honour of your name, In works of sovereign power come shake the earth again, That all may see, and come with fervent fear To the living God, whose Kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord, in all the earth your fame,
And in our time revive the Church that bears your name.
And in your anger, Lord, remember mercy,
O living God, whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord, where we are hard and cold, In your refiner's fire: come, purify the gold. Though suffering comes and evil crouches near, Still our living God is reigning, he is reigning here.

Restore, O Lord, the honour of your name,
In works of sovereign power come shake the earth again,
That all may see, and come with fervent fear
To the living God, whose Kingdom shall outlast the years.

Words and Music: Graham Kendrick b. 1950 and Chris Rolinson b. 1958

At the end of the Blessing of the Gifts we respond

Blessed be God forever

Please sit or stand

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you And also with you

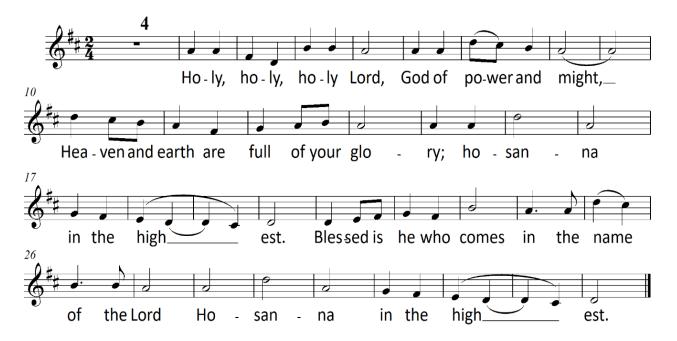
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts and at the end we sing



The priest continues with the prayer which recalls the Last Supper, after the elevation the priest says, 'Great is the mystery of Faith'



The prayer continues and concludes with the doxology where we respond,



THE LORD'S PRAYER

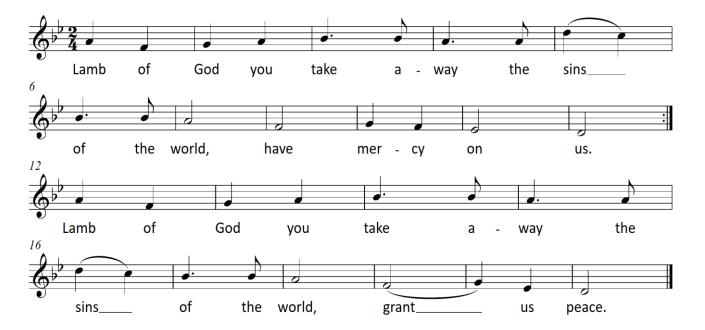
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread

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.



The Giving of Communion

Jesus is 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.

Draw near with faith. Receive the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his Blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Please sit and wait to be directed for Communion.

During the distribution of Communion

Aria Movement III from Pastorale BWV 590 Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Reflection

Kindle a Flame to lighten the dark and take all the fear away.

Words and Music: John L Bell b. 1949 and Graham Maule b. 1958

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Priest prays the post-communion prayer followed by

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.

NOTICES

Please stand

THE BLESSING

The priest gives the blessing **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love, and to reflect God's glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee, And, that love may never cease, I will move thee. Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me, Thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee.
And the cream of all my heart I will bring thee,
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me,
And alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee, In my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee. Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee: Even eternity's too short to extol thee.

Words: George Herbert 1593-1633 Music: John David Jones 1827-1870

Postlude

Praeludium BWV 557 Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

The authorship of the Eight Little Preludes and Fugues is debated, some argue they were composed by a pupil of Bach. The G major prelude here is a miniature toccata with improvisatory passages reflecting the influences of other composers of the period

including Bach. The subject of the figure is syncopated so, as in the 'Well Tempered Klavier' modulations, before or after stretto (the imitation of the subject in close succession) entries are easily accomplished.

Thank you for joining in our worship today.

You can now make contactless donations to St Margaret's using the GoodBox, and GoodPlate by the North or West Door.

Online donations can be made at www.ifieldparish.org





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Notices

Service next Sunday: Parish Communion (9.30 am)

Sunday Celebration (11.00 am)

and on Facebook and the parish website www.ifieldparish.org