



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



Sunday 12th March 2023
Lent 3

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.

THE GATHERING

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.

Lamento

Félix-Alexandre Guilmant 1837-1911

We stand and sing at the entrance of the clergy

Processional Hymn

**Father, hear the prayer we offer, not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures do we ask our way to be,
But the steep and rugged pathway may we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not for ever by still waters would we idly rest and stay,
But would smite the living fountains from the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness, in our wanderings be our guide,
Through endeavour, failure, danger, Father, be thou at our side.**

Words: Maria Willis 1824-1908 Music: Trad adapted: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

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

MEDITATION

There is so much during the day that clamours for our attention. Friends, family, work, classes, household tasks. And the noise! We are bombarded with sound, from the clock that awakens us to the telephone, the radio, the television, the conversation that we have or overhear. Where is the time and place to listen for the still, small voice of God? Sometimes it seems that God would have to speak in a whirlwind to be heard above the clamour! Listen now. There is a place of quiet rest, and it is the place where God dwells within you. Close your eyes. Be aware of the place. In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God, beneath the clamour. Let the story of Jesus reach us there. Let it teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of violence to the Earth.

(A purple candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray:

Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you but continue to search until they find their rest in you. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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 us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE KYRIE

Cantor
Lord_____ have mer - cy.

Congregation
Lord_____ have mer - cy. *Cantor*
Christ_____ have mer - cy.

Congregation
Christ_____ have mer - cy. *Cantor*
Lord_____ have

Congregation
mer - cy. Lord_____ have mer - cy.

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 for the readings

First Reading

Exodus 17.1-7

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 5.1-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel

The Gospel Reading
John 4.5-42

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

We stand

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
From there he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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

We stand to share the sign of peace.

The Sign of Peace

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.

Please remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.

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.

All that I am, all that I do,
all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you.
*Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord,
Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.*
All that I am all that I do,
All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

All that I dream, all that I pray,
All that I'll ever make, I give to you today.
*Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord,
Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.*
All that I am all that I do,
All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

Words and Music: Sebastian Temple 1928-1997

At the end of the Blessing of the Gifts we respond

Blessed be God forever.

We 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

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord,

5

God of power and God of might.

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Hosanna in the highest.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might.*

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

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, ri - sing you re -

5

stored our life: Lord Je - sus come in glo - ry.

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

A - men, A - men. A - men.

6

A - men. A - men.

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.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the_

sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.____ Lamb of

God, you take a - way the_ sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.____

____ Lamb of God, you take a - way the_

sins of the world. Grant _____ us peace.

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.

The sacrament will be administered to the congregation in both kinds. As the priest offers you the host with the words 'The Body of Christ' please respond Amen.

As you are offered the chalice, please remember you won't be permitted to handle the sides of the chalice only the base.

When you are offered the chalice to take a sip with the words 'The Blood of Christ,' please respond Amen.

You will not be permitted to 'dip' the host into the chalice and must consume the host before receiving wine from the chalice. There is no need now to return to your seat with the host in your hands.

During the distribution of Communion

Offertorium from Messe pro Organo

Franz Liszt 1811-1886

Reflection

**As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
*You alone are my strength and shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.***

**I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.
*You alone are my strength and shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.***

**You're my friend and you're my Brother, even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.
*You alone are my strength and shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.***

Words, Based on Ps 42, and Music: Martin Nystrom b.1956

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Priest prays the post-communion prayer followed by

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's Body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand

The priest gives the blessing.
Amen.

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.

Recessional Hymn

**All Ye who seek a comfort sure
In sorrow and distress,
Whatever sorrow vex the mind,
Or guilt the soul oppress.**

**Jesus, who gave himself for you
Upon the Cross to die,
Opens to you his sacred heart –
Oh, to that heart draw nigh!**

**Ye hear how kindly he invites,
Ye hear his words so blest,
'All ye that labour, come to me,
And I will give you rest.'**

**Jesus, thou joy of saints on high!
Thou hope of sinners here!
Attracted by those loving words,
To thee I lift my prayer.**

**Wash thou my wound in that dear blood
Which forth from thee doth flow,
New grace, hope inspire, a new
And better heart bestow.**

*Words: 'Quicumque certum quaeritis' 18th Century tr: Edward Caswall 1814-1878
Music adapted from a melody in 'Tochter Sion' 1741*

Postlude: Short Prelude in G Minor BWV 558
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. He composed them during the years 1708-1717. The G minor prelude here is similar to an Italian courante, a court dance for couples prominent in the late 16th Century. The fugue is very symmetrical in structure with a subject and one strong rhythmic or melodic motive. The pedal has a purely harmonic function, reflecting the influences of other composers of the period including Bach.

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:
Mothering Sunday

Scouts Mothering Sunday Service (9.30 am)
Sung Eucharistic Service (11.00 am)
and on Facebook and the parish website www.ifieldparish.org

I would like to invite everyone in the diocese to keep 2023 as a year of the Old Testament. Next year is the first of two special years [2024 will be the Year of the New Testament] leading up to the 2025 which we will keep as a special Year of Faith.

2025 celebrates 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea which gave us what became the Nicene Creed. It also marks 950 years of Christian mission in a diocese based in Chichester. Hence why the three-year programme is known as Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith.

The Year of the Old Testament will reflect on the Hebrew Scriptures. We will seek to understand the Law, the Prophets and the Writings in their original context, and see more clearly how they point us towards Jesus Christ and the gospel, and to our own knowledge of him in the history of his body, the Church.

The Old Testament speaks repeatedly of God as One and as Holy. So we hope that this Year will help us to understand how the Old Testament guides the Church to be 'one' and 'holy': the first two of the 'marks of the Church' and part of our diocesan strategy.

+ Martin

