

Third Sunday of Epiphany
The Conversion of Paul
Fourth Sunday Family Communion
Sunday 23rd January 2022, 10.30am

Welcome to our service of Holy Communion.
This is a service for *everyone* to engage with and to participate in.
Please make yourselves at home.

Gathering to Worship God

We meet in the name of God,
All **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

God is great!
All **Let the people praise you!** (*repeat 4 times*)

Musical Meditation – *As the Deer Pants for Water*

Saying Sorry to God

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

We keep silence and then join together to pray:

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:
Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love
bring *us* back to himself,
forgive *us our* sins,
and assure *us* of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis (*sung to the tune Ode to Joy*)

All 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 sin away,
Now with God 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!

Prayer of the Day (the Collect)

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Hearing and Responding to the Bible

Gospel Reading – Matthew 19.27-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁷ Peter said to him, “We left everything we had and followed you. So, what will we have?”

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “When the time of the new world comes, the Son of Man will sit on his great and glorious throne. And I can promise that you who followed me will sit on twelve thrones, and you will judge the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or farms to follow me will get much more than they left. And they will have eternal life. ³⁰ Many people who are first now will be last in the future. And many who are last now will be first in the future.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn – Have mercy on us, O Lord (no.269)

All *Have mercy on us,
O Lord, for we have sinned. (Repeat)*

**O God, in your kindness
Have mercy on me,
In your compassion
blot out my offence.
O wash me, O wash me
From all of my guilt,
until you have cleansed me from my sin.**

*Have mercy on us,
O Lord, for we have sinned. (Repeat)*

**For all my offences
I know them well;
I cannot escape from
The sight of my sin.
Against you, O Lord,
Only you, have I sinned:
And done what is wrong in your eyes.**

*Have mercy on us,
O Lord, for we have sinned. (Repeat)*

**A pure heart create
In your servant, O Lord.
A steadfast and trustworthy
spirit in me.
O cast me not out
from your presence, I pray,
and take not your spirit from me.**

*Have mercy on us,
O Lord, for we have sinned. (Repeat)*

**Restore to me, Lord,
All the joy of your help;
Sustain me with fervour,
Sustain me with zeal.
Then open my lips
And my mouth shall declare
The praise of my Lord and my God.**

*Have mercy on us,
O Lord, for we have sinned. (Repeat)*

New Testament Reading – Acts 9.1-22

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Saul was an angry man who did not like Christians at all. He made nasty threats. He beat them and sometimes even killed them.

On this particular day, Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus wanting to put some Christians in jail. As he and his friends were making their way along the dusty road, suddenly a bright light flashed around him. He fell down on the ground trying to get away from it.

Then he heard a voice. It was unlike any voice he had ever heard, saying, "SAUL! SAUL! Why do you want to persecute me?"

Saul, not recognizing the voice, said, "Who are you?"

The answer came back, "I am Jesus."

Of course, Saul was terribly afraid. In a weak voice he said, "Lord, what should I do?"

Jesus replied, "Go into the city, and someone will meet you and tell you what to do."

When Saul was able to get up off the ground, he uncovered his eyes, but he couldn't see anything. His friends had to hold his hands and lead him into the city of Damascus. The light was so bright for three whole days he couldn't see anything at all.

While all of this was happening on the road *outside* the city of Damascus, something else was happening *inside* the city.

The Christians were becoming fearful because they had heard that Saul was on his way and they knew what terrible things he had done to other Christians.

There was a Christian man named Ananias who loved the Lord very much. God spoke to him in a vision, telling him to go down the street to find Saul. Now, Ananias had heard all the stories about Saul, and he wasn't very fond of this plan.

The Lord spoke to Ananias again, reassuring him that everything would be fine and Ananias found the house where Saul was staying. While he was there, he prayed for Saul and the blindness left him. The Lord healed him so he could see again.

Saul stayed in Damascus with the Christians. He became good friends with them and learned from them. It wasn't long before Saul became a preacher teaching people about Jesus. Everyone was amazed! They couldn't believe that this was the same person that had hated them so much and wanted to kill them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Talk – *Paul is transformed*

Affirmation of Faith

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

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

Between each petition:

Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

At the end the following may be said:

Merciful Father,

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

The Peace

God makes peace within us.

All Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us.

All Let us share it.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Hymn – *The Church's one foundation* (no.636)

All The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride,
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;

till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord,
give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Sharing in Holy Communion

Minister The Lord is here
All **God's Spirit is with us.**

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

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Children Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
All **Listen, and we will hear.**

Left side Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

Right side You give us your love,
even when things go wrong.
Jesus knew hurt and pain.
Through him you wipe away our tears,
and fill us with your peace.

All **You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:**

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

Left side We thank you,
loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.

Right side He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

All **Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.**

Children Why do we share this bread and wine?

All **Listen, and we will hear.**

Minister On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.

'So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children How do we follow Jesus Christ?

All **Listen, and we will hear.**

Minister Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with James and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
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 and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the 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

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you.
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.
All **Jesus,**
I believe that you are present in our communion.
Whether I am here physically or virtually,
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.

**Come, I pray, spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.**

Going out to Serve God

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

For bringing us together in love.

All Thank you!

For feeding us with your very self.

All Thank you!

For the power of your Spirit.

All Thank you!

For sending us out into the world filled with you Spirit.

All Thank you!

Notices

**Worship song – *To be in Your Presence (My Desire) (no.694)*
(performed by Sara, Claire, Mike and Andy)**

**All To be in your presence
To sit at your feet
When your love surrounds me
And makes me complete.**

**This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire.**

**To rest in your presence
Not rushing away
To cherish each moment
Here I would stay.**

**This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire.**

**To be in your presence
To sit at your feet
When your love surrounds me
And makes me complete.**

**This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire.**

**This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire
This is my desire, O Lord
This is my desire.**

Final Blessing

May Christ who called Paul to his service,
and to preach the good news to the world,
strengthen you to witness to his grace and love.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

We go together with joy and laughter.

All We go!

We go together to love and to share.

All We go!

We go together to explore and to learn.

All We go!

We go in peace to love and serve God.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.
If you would like to financially support the work of the church
please click [HERE](#) or contact us about joining
the Parish Giving Scheme.**