

Parish of Central Windsor
A Taizé-style Service
of Holy Communion for the
Feast of St Matthew
Sunday 21st September 2025

5.15pm



Welcome to St Stephen & St Agnes Church
for our service this evening.

GATHERING

THE GREETING

The priest says

In the name of the Father†,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

All **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.**

A silence is kept

All **Laudate omnes gentes, Laudate Dominum
Laudate omnes gentes, Laudate Dominum**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Jesus said to his apostles,
‘You are my friends if you obey my commands.’
Let us now confess our disobedience to him.

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.**

ABSOLUTION

The priest declares God's forgiveness

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,†
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words:

Let us pray

O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive
love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for :

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 3.13–18

- ¹³ Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
¹⁴ for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Verses from Psalm 103

All **Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life**

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 4.1–6

⁴¹ Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

All **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.**

Cantor sings

Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight a path for God. Prepare the way for the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord always. God is at hand. Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord.

I waited for the Lord. God heard my cry

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

Matthew 9.9–13

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹² But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit for:

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All Let us declare our faith in God.
**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.**

Please sit or kneel for:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

This response is sung between intercessions

All **O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

All The peace of the triune God be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

As the altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it we sing

All **Eat this bread, drink this cup;
come to him and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in him and you will not thirst x2**

Christ is the bread of life,
the true bread sent from the Father
**Eat this bread, drink this cup;
come to him and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in him and you will not thirst x2**

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever
**Eat this bread, drink this cup;
come to him and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in him and you will not thirst x2**

The priest takes the bread and wine.

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy; Holy is the Lord
Holy, holy, holy; Holy is the Lord
Father, Son and Spirit; Evermore shall be
Holy, holy, holy; Blessed Trinity
Praise to you O Lord, Hosanna in the height
Holy, holy, holy; God of power and might.**

Franz Schubert arr Alan Bullard

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he 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.

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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life

All **When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.
Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.
Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace.
Bring us at the last with St Matthew and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest 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.**

AGNUS DEI

All **Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace.**

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.**

Music during Administration of Communion: Song of the Birds, a Catalan folksong arranged by Pablo Casals

If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this evening. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you or simply bow your head as you approach the altar so we know you wish to receive a blessing.

Gluten free wafers are available on request.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The priest says

THE BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All Ubi caritas et amor; ubi caritas, Deus ibi est
Ubi caritas et amor; ubi caritas, Deus ibi est

The priest says

Go in the light and peace of Christ

All Thanks be to God

The ministers and people depart.

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt “at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that you will return in the future.

We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you
for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith,
please ask!**

**You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the
Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org**

PARISH WEBSITE

www.windsorchurches.org.uk

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