

Parish of Central Windsor

**A Taizé-style Service
of Holy Communion**

Sunday 20th September 2026

5.00pm



**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 says:

Repent, the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator
Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour
Christ, have mercy

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide
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

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as we sing together 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

Philippians 1.21–end

¹ ²⁷ Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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.

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 20.1–16

20 ¹ Jesus said to his disciples, ‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” ⁷They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” ¹³But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

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
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**

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever
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**

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 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 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,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
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

**Our 10.00am service next Sunday,
27th September,
will be at All Saints’ Church, Frances Road**

PARISH WEBSITE

www.windsorchurches.org.uk

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