

Parish of Central Windsor  
**SUNG EUCHARIST**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
(Vocations Sunday)**



 He is  
**RISEN**

**A warm welcome to St Stephen & St Agnes Church  
for our service today**

On most Sundays we offer Sunday Club during the service.  
Children are welcome to gather at the front of the church  
after the Collect on page 4 before they go out to their activities  
with our Sunday Club leaders.

If you have babies or small children with you, you are welcome to stay in  
church. Please don't be embarrassed if they cry  
or make a noise.

*Please stand for :*

## **OPENING HYMN**

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy**

*Please remain standing for:*

## **THE GREETING**

*The president greets the people:*

*All*      The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*      The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

*All*      **Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.**  
Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All*      **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Please sit for:*

## **WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANY NOTICES**

*Please stand for:*

## **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.

*All*     **Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

‘I set no store by life:  
I only want to finish the race and complete the task  
that the Lord has assigned to me,  
of bearing witness to the gospel of God’s grace.’  
Let us confess our failure to live up to our calling.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:  
‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.’  
In your mercy, forgive us.

*All*     **Lord, hear us and help us.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful  
but the labourers are few  
In your mercy, forgive us

*All*     **Lord, hear us and help us.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

*All*     **Lord, hear us and help us.**

*The Kyrie Eleison is sung:*

*All*     **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy, Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

*The priest says*

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive you your sins †  
and make *you* holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## **THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*All*      **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated  
at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **THE COLLECT**

*The priest says:*

Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;

through our Lord and Saviour 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 Sunday Club are invited to gather together at the front of the church before going to their activities.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Please sit for:*

### **FIRST READING**

#### **Acts 2.42–end**

Many were baptised and were added to the community  
2<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: 23**

*The congregation is invited to sing the response*

***The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want***

The LORD is my shepherd; therefore can / I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me be / side still waters.

He shall re / fresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness / for his name's sake.

***Response***

Though I walk through the valley of the sha / dow of death,  
I will / fear no evil;  
for / you are with me;  
your rod and your / staff, they comfort me.

***Response***

You spread a ta / ble before me  
in the presence of / those who trouble me  
you have anointed my / head with oil  
and my cup / shall be full.

**Response**

Surely goodness and loving mer / cy shall follow me  
all the days / of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the / Lord forever.

***The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want***

**SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 2.19–end**

Brothers and sisters

<sup>2</sup><sup>19</sup>It is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' <sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*At the end the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for:*

**Gradual Hymn**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary, and worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink, and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright:"  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my Star, my Sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.**

*Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)*

*Please remain standing for:*

**GOSPEL READING**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings:*

Alleluia, alleluia

Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,  
and whoever wishes to be first among you must be the servant of all.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

**John 10.1-10**

<sup>10</sup> <sup>1</sup>Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers. <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

At the end the reader :

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please sit for:*

## **SERMON**

## **THE APOSTLES CREED**

*Let us declare before God the faith of the church in which, we pray, we may all find grace to grow.*

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 the life everlasting.  
Amen**

*Please sit for:*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*These responses may be used*

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*All* Lord hear us  
**Lord graciously hear us**

*And at the end*

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

## BANNS OF MARRIAGE MAY BE READ

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please stand for:*

### THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia

*All* The peace of the Lord 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.*

*The offertory collection will be brought to the altar to be blessed.  
It will be used for the ministry, mission and outreach of the church.  
Please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are able to do so.*

*If you give regularly via the collection when you attend Sunday worship in one of our churches, but are not with us every week, have you considered giving through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very easy to do. Details are in the weekly Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or speak to any of our churchwardens*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou for ever will be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand has provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

***Refrain***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

***Refrain***

*Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960)*

## Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The priest takes the bread and wine.*

Heavenly Father,  
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,  
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds  
as we offer our lives in your service;  
for Jesus Christ's sake.

*All*      **Amen**

## 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.**

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
heavenly Father, source of all that is,  
for you have called our world into existence,  
and filled it with abundant life.

You called a chosen people as your own,  
and led them in the way of holiness.  
You called your beloved Son,  
in whom you were well pleased,  
to give his life for us on the cross,  
and rise again in glory.

And now we give you thanks  
that you call men and women  
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,  
for the building up of the body of Christ.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Stephen, St Agnes,  
St John the Baptist and all the saints,  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*The priest says*

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary  
version as we pray together*

*All*      **Our Father, who art in heaven,    All**  
**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 ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

**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.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

*The priest says the invitation to communion*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*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 morning. 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.*

*During the administration of communion the following will be sung:*

**I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
alive and among us here.**

**Together met, together bound,  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world,  
the love that makes us one.** *Brian A. Wren b1936*

**ANTHEM:** Panis angelicus (Franck)

## **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Heavenly Father,**  
**whose risen Son gave gifts of leadership and service**  
**to the Church:**  
**strengthen us who have received this holy food**  
**to be good stewards of your manifold grace;**  
**through him who came not to be served but to serve,**  
**and give his life as a ransom for many,**  
**Jesus Christ our Lord**  
**Amen**

*Members of Sunday Club are invited to show their work to the congregation*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*Please stand for :*

### **THE BLESSING**

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,  
may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,  
may the gifts of the Spirit equip you  
to serve and worship God;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## Final Hymn

**At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of Glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word:**

**Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious  
when from death he passed.**

**Name him, Christians, name him,  
With love strong as death,  
But with awe and wonder  
And with bated breath:  
He is God the Saviour,  
He is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped  
Trusted and adored.**

**Surely, this Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of Glory now.**

*Caroline M. Noel (1817-1877)*

*The priest says*

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia**

*The ministers and people depart.*

**Today's service will be followed by the Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will take place in church.**

**Refreshments will be served in the hall.**

If you are attending the meeting, please feel free to bring your drinks back into church so we can start the meeting promptly.

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

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.

**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](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

**WEB SITE:**

**[www.windsorchurches.org.uk](http://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)**

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