



***A Service of Holy Communion
Third Sunday Before Lent
Racial Justice Sunday***

Welcome to St James, the parish Church of Bulkington. Thank you for joining us today, whether you are in the building or participating online. We are very glad to be with you.

Holy Communion (or the Eucharist) is the central act of Christian worship. Through our community celebration of the Eucharist, we tell the story of God with his people throughout history, and proclaim that this God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, is real among us.

We are following Government and Church of England guidelines to ensure that we have the safest possible experience of being with each other for our worship. Please care for yourself and others by:

- Sanitising your hands
- Wearing a face covering, unless exempt from doing so

This service is being livestreamed so that as many as would like to can be part of our worship. The camera will only focus on those contributing to the service.

Please give generously to support St James. You can

- Leave a cash donation (including brown envelopes) in the plate provided on your way in or out of Church
- Join the Parish Giving Scheme (please speak to Rev Charles about this)
- Online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5o6gncq> (the QR code will take you to this page. Please note that a small proportion of your donation does not reach the Church)
- Make an electronic donation via bank transfer or standing order.



The Gathering

We will be **welcomed to the service**

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

All: Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

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.**

Confession and Absolution

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

cf. Romans 8.22,23

You made us to be one family,
yet we have divided humanity.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people,
yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You rejoice in our differences,
yet we make them a cause of enmity.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May God our Father forgive us our sins,
and bring us to the fellowship of his table
with his saints forever.

All: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

**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

We spend a moment in quiet prayer and then Rev Charles prays:

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the heart of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

I Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn – All my hope on God is founded

- 1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

- 2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from his store,
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930), based on 'Meine Hoffnung stehet feste' by Joachim Neander (1650-1680) © Oxford University Press

Gospel Reading – Luke 6:17-26

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ 'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ 'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ 'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

After the sermon, we share a time of quiet.

The Creed

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

**We 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.**

**We 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer

At the end:

Merciful Father,

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

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

God calls us to peace:

All: in God's justice is our peace.

Christ calls us to be God's people:

All: in Christ is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Hymn – Brother, sister, let me serve you

- 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard © 1977 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity music/Kingsway's Thankyou Music

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All: His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,

Lord God of truth,

for you made us in your image
and redeemed us through your Son.

You taught us by your prophets
to work for that day when justice, mercy and peace will reign.

Let the day come quickly
when the walls that separate us are broken down,
and when suffering and oppression,
racism and discrimination will be no more.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
keep us faithful in prayer and active in service,
to be advocates of your justice
and instruments of your peace,
until all your people rejoice with the angels in heaven, *saying:*

**All: 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.**

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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 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 forever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 ever 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.**

**All: Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,**

have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

We are invited to receive the bread or a blessing

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may; not because you are strong but because you are weak; not because you have arrived but because you are still on a journey; come because you love the Lord a little and want to love him more. Above all, come because he loves you and gave himself for you.

Prayer after Communion

Blessed God,
help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this eucharist,
to hunger and thirst for what is right;
help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad,
to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled;
help us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven,
to strive for the cause of right
and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns, now and forever.

All: Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out**

**in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

If you are joining with the service online, you might like to say this prayer of spiritual communion:

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pain and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Blessing

The blessing of God the Father,
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;
of God the Son,
who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and
nation;
and of God the Spirit,
who brings us together in unity,
be with you and remain with you always.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

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