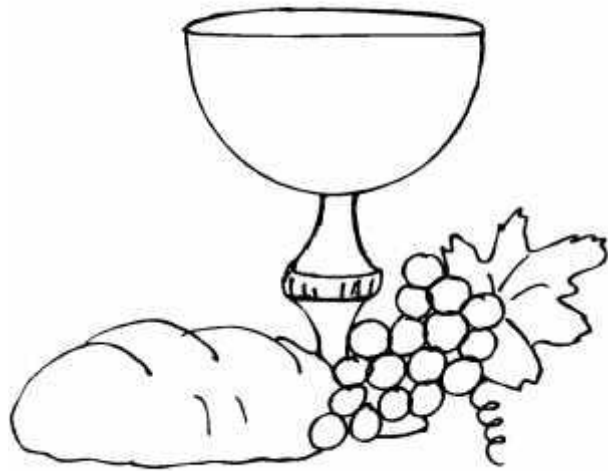


**ST NICOLAS' CHURCH  
Abingdon**

**Sunday 11 October**



**HOLY COMMUNION  
AND HARVEST THANKSGIVING**



**Officiant: The Revd David Bevington**



## Welcome

*The president greets the people having given any notices:*

*Please stand:*

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

The earth has yielded its harvest;  
**God, our God, has blessed us.**

*We say together*

*The Gloria*

**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 for the Day:**

Eternal God,  
you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;  
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. **Amen.**

*Please sit for:*

**First reading**

**Deuteronomy 26 v 1 - 5a and 9 - 11**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy:

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God:

'The LORD brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

For the gift of the word

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 65 v 8 – 13**

*Those on the north side of church please read the even numbered verses, those on the south the odd numbered.*

- 8 You visit the earth and water it;  
you make it very plenteous.
- 9 The river of God is full of water;  
you prepare grain for your people,  
for so you provide for the earth.
- 10 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.

- 11 You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 12 May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness  
and the hills be girded with joy.
- 13 May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep  
and the valleys stand so thick with corn  
that they shall laugh and sing.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Please stand for the Gospel*

**John 6 v 1-13**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*Please stand to say*

**Apostle's Creed**

**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 into hell.**

**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 or kneel for:*

**Intercessions**

**Prayers of Penitence**

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,  
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Amen.**

*Please stand for:*

**The Peace**

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We show a sign of peace to our neighbour, without physical sharing*

***The preparation of the Altar***

*During the preparation of the altar, please remain seated as we meditate on the words below (with organ accompaniment – but please DO NO SING!)*

**We plough the fields, and scatter**

*CP 275*

We plough the fields, and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand;  
he sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft, refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
for all his love.*

He only is the maker  
of all things near and far;  
he paints the wayside flower,  
he lights the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey him,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children,  
he gives our daily bread.

We thank you then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good:  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
for all your love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

Matthias Claudius (1740–1815)  
translated by Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817–1878) (alt.)

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.

You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.

And so we gladly thank you,

with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**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 is the bread of life:

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

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 St Nicolas 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

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread**

### Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
The Body and Blood of Christ keep you all in eternal life.  
**Amen**

*Please come forward and keep as much social distance as possible;  
the president distributes the host in silence*

*During the distribution of communion, please remain seated as we meditate on  
the words below (with organ accompaniment – but please DO NO SING!)*

### **Praise, O praise our God and King**

*CP 273*

Praise, O praise our God and King;  
hymns of adoration sing;  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him that he made the sun  
day by day his course to run;  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure;

and the silver moon by night,  
shining with her gentle light;  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him that he gave the rain  
to mature the swelling grain;  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure;

and hath bid the fruitful field  
crops of precious increase yield;  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise him for our harvest-store,  
he hath filled the garner-floor;  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.

And for richer food than this,  
pledge of everlasting bliss;  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.

Glory to our bounteous King;  
glory let creation sing;  
glory to the Father, Son,  
and blest Spirit, Three in One.

### Post-Communion Prayer

**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**

## Blessing and Dismissal

May God our creator,  
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,  
bestow on you his care  
and increase the harvest of your righteousness  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Freely you have received, freely give.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Please maintain social distancing as you leave  
and take this Service Booklet with you, Thank you**

*Acknowledgement: Some of the material in this service is used with permission and taken from Services and Prayers of the Church of England (Common Worship) 2000 and Times and Seasons (Common Worship) 2006; copyright Archbishop's Council 2006. CCL 57519*