



St **NICOLAS' CHURCH**
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday

FAMILY COMMUNION

with Thanksgiving for the birth of Susanna Penneck



The Revd David Bevington
Sunday 27March 2022

Please stand:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.



Angel Voices

CP 377

Angel voices ever singing round thy throne of light,
angel harps, forever ringing, rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee and confess thee Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest songs of sinful man?
Can we feel that thou art near us and wilt hear us? Yea, we can.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices for thy praise combine;
craftsman's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer, all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices in our choicest psalmody

Honour, glory, might, and merit thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity:
of the best that thou hast given earth and heaven render Thee.

Francis Pott (1832 – 1909)

Please sit or kneel as we ask God's forgiveness

The Confession

Let us call to mind our sins, our failures to value the love of others and our failures to love as Christ has loved us.

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.
When we fail to live as your children, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You call us to do good.
When we seek our own good, Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help.
When we ignore the cries of others, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Promise of Forgiveness

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e -
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

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le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

7
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Chri - ste e - lei - son.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

*Words traditional,
music Dinah Reindorf, arr. Geoff Weaver*

The Collect for the Day

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please sit for:

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled

to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



God with humanity made one?

CP 451

God with humanity made one
is seen in Christ, God's only Son;
in you, Lord Christ, the Son of man,
we see God's reconciling plan.

To save a broken world you came,
and from chaotic depths reclaim
your whole creation, so we share
you reconciling work and care.

In you all humankind can see
the people God would have us be.
In you we find how God forgives,
through you, the Spirit in us lives.

Where race or creed or hate divide,
the church, like God must stand beside,
with arms outstretched, to heal and bless
the refugees of emptiness.

Then give us strength, great Lord of life,
to work until all human strife
is reconciled, and all shall praise,
your endless love, your glorious ways.

David Fox (b1956)

Please remain standing for

The Gospel

Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11b - 32

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he

had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Please stand for the

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Do you believe and trust in God the Father:

Source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,

Who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Please sit or kneel for:

Intercessions

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child

Do you receive this child as a gift from God?

Parents: We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

Parents: We do.

God our creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We thank you for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life. We thank you that we are known to you by name and loved by you from all eternity. We thank you for Jesus Christ, who has opened to us the way of love. We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them,
so now we ask God's blessing on Susanna.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for Susanna's birth;
surround her with your blessing that she may know your love,
be protected from evil, and know your goodness all her days.

**May she learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength and, in due time,
come through faith and baptism to the fullness of your grace;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Amen.

May God the Father of all bless Briony and Rob
and give them grace to love and care for their children.
May God give them wisdom, patience and faith,
help them to provide for their children's needs
and, by their example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A copy of the Bible is presented:

Receive this book. It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

The congregation is asked

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?
With the help of God, we will.

God our Creator,
we thank you for the gift of the children you have entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding, ready to guide and to forgive,
so that through our love they may come to know your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen, Blessed be God for ever.

Please stand for:

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. *(Romans 5.1,2)*
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)



Let love be real

tune CP 54

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go.
*As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness;
give me your love in spite of all you know.
*As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control;
let us accept each other's incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments;
give me your trust when all my failings show.
*As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

Michael Forster (b. 1946)
The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong.
You made us and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.
You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.
You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels to celebrate and say:

**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.

Father, on the night before he died,

Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.

He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal,

Jesus took the cup of wine.

He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love.

Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,

and remember his death and resurrection,

send your Holy Spirit,

that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us

that we may love one another,

work for the healing of the earth,

and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,

with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:

one God, 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

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.
Amen

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



I come with joy,

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 among us here.

CP 305

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 (b 1936)

Prayer before the distribution of flowers

Let us give thanks to the Lord;
for His mercy and love are everlasting.

For all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they care for
their children, and have wept in sorrow and joy,
we give you thanks and praise.

For all loving human relationships,
we give you thanks and praise.

For our beautiful world,
its spring flowers and the miracle of new life and growth,
We give you thanks and praise.

For all members of our families who have died and are now at home with
you,
we give you thanks and praise.

For Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love,
and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love,
we give you thanks and praise.

For the family of the church, and for our life together,
we give you thanks and praise.

So, Father, we give you grateful thanks for all your blessings,
and 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.



Let all the world

CP 497

Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.

But above all the heart
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!".

George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ

Amen

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