



Holy Communion

Easter Season

St George's Church, Wash Common



Welcome to St George's

Welcome to St George's Church and to today's celebration of Holy Communion. This service is for everyone, and we hope that if you are new or visiting you will feel included and welcomed.

Children are always welcome at St George's and no one is too young to come to church. During all services there is a toddlers' area with books and soft toys, and at 9.30am on Sundays in term time we offer groups for primary and secondary age children. Please ask one of the welcome team for more information.

All are warmly invited to come for coffee after the 9.30am service.

It might also be helpful to know that -

- A hearing loop is in operation for hearing aid users.
- Gluten-free communion wafers are available. Speak to one of the
- welcome team.
- Toilets are in the entrance lobby.

Live-streaming of services often takes place and, although we try to avoid people's faces, do please sit towards the rear of the church if you wish to be out of view.

Easter Season

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at dawn on Easter morning is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ.

At dawn on the Easter morning the celebrations begin with the lighting of the Easter Candle; the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The 'Alleluia' appears frequently in our liturgy and song. White or gold vestments and floral decorations emphasise the joy and brightness of the season.

Ascension Day and Pentecost draw the season to a close. As Christ's incarnation comes to an end, he commissions his disciples to continue his work and mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (meaning fiftieth day) completes and crowns the Easter Festival. The Church is born to share Christ's risen life with all people. Alleluia!

The Gathering

Please stand at the entry of the ministers and choir.

A minister welcomes us informally before the start of the service.

Silence is kept.

Hymn

The presiding priest says:

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

Amen.

The presiding priest may use a sentence of scripture.

The Greeting

The presiding priest greets the people:

Alleluia, Christ is Risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

The 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.**

Prayer of Penitence

A minister uses these or other suitable words:

In baptism we died with Christ,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,
we might walk in newness of life.

Let us receive new life in him
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

A short silence follows offering space for reflection.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The presiding priest says the Absolution (God's forgiveness of sins):

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

Our response to God's forgiveness and welcome. When sung a refrain is used:

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**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

Let us pray.

The Collect is preceded by a short period of silent prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Please sit.

At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Hymn or Psalm may be sung

Gospel Reading

Please stand.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

We stand to affirm our faith using the words of The Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel as we pray.

One of the responses below may be used at the end of each prayer.

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

Jesus Lord of life,
in your mercy hear us.

And at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We stand. he presiding priest introduces 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you;
and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share a sign of peace.

Hymn

Preparation of the Table

The altar table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The presiding priest takes the bread and wine and praises God.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
In your loving care you spread
before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold
of our Saviour and our Shepherd,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer [Eucharistic Prayer B]

The presiding priest says:

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

[Short Preface for Easter Season]

And now we give you thanks
because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,
the long reign of sin is ended,
a broken world is being renewed
and humanity is once again made whole.

[Short Preface for Ascension Day]

And now we give you thanks
because, after his most glorious resurrection,
he appeared to his disciples,
and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us;
that where he is, thither we might also ascend,
and reign with him in glory.

[Short Preface from Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost]

And now we give you thanks
that, after he had ascended far above all heavens,
and was seated at the right hand of your majesty,
he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy
and life-giving Spirit;
that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel
might go forth into all the world.

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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Bells are rung.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Bells are rung.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Saint George, St John and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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

The presiding priest 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.**

We sing or say the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) as the bread is broken

**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

The presiding priest says this invitation to communion:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The priest and people receive communion with these words.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

All are warmly invited to come forward when indicated to receive communion, or for those who are not baptised to receive a prayer of blessing, keeping hands lowered.

Hymns may be sung during the distribution of communion.

Prayer after Communion

The presiding priest says a Post Communion prayer.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Hymn

The Blessing

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings
new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you,
and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia

In the name of Christ.

Alleluia. Amen.

All are warmly invited to coffee in the hall
after the 9.30am Sunday service.

Giving to the ministry and mission of St George's

As a charity the church relies on the generosity of parishioners to fund its work. If you wish to donate to St George's please use the blue envelopes, or make an electronic payment with your debit card as you leave. Alternatively, please consider joining our planned giving scheme and pick up a leaflet from one of the welcome team.

Thank you very much.



St George's Church 2023

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Newbury, St George & St John