

St George's Church

Service of the Word



Welcome to St George's Church. If you are new or visiting, please introduce yourself to us after the service – we are delighted to have you with us.



For regular events and news from St George's Church, make sure you are on our mailing list. Previous Pastoral Letters are available on our church website.

God's family, reaching out and welcoming in, because
JESUS IS GOOD NEWS

Before the Service begins

As you wait for the service to begin, pray for a few people around you. Think of people who are unable to attend and bring them before the Lord in prayer.

Ask God to meet us and change us today. The following prayer is a good one to use:

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.

CALL: God gathers us

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

This is the day that the LORD has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

[Psalm 118:24]

Praise the LORD, O all you nations;

all you peoples, sing his praise.

For his love is great towards us;

his commitment lasts always.

He is faithful now and ever.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

[Psalm 117 from Sing Psalms]

As you come to Jesus, the living Stone, you are living stones being built into a temple of the Spirit, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's special possession,
so that we may declare the praises of him
who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

Once you were not a people

but now we are God's people.

Once you had not received mercy

but now we have received mercy.

[1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10]

Hymn

CONFESSION: God cleanses us

You have been born again, not of perishable seed,
but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
Therefore rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit,
hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind.

[1 Peter 1:23, 2:1]

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

This, or another Bible verse, will be used to declare the promise of forgiveness.

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness,
for by his wounds you have been healed.

[1 Peter 2:24]

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. **Amen.**

We sing:

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning,
great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord,
great is Thy faithfulness.**

[Lamentations 3:22-23]

The Collect (set prayer for today)

CONSECRATION: God speaks and transforms us

The first Bible reading ends with this Response:

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*:
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn

Sermon

Hymn

Remain standing for the Apostles' Creed.

Let us affirm our faith in the living God:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to 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.**

Prayers

Some of the prayers may end in this way:

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

**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 forever.
Amen.**

Hymn

We remain standing:

COMMISSION: God sends us

Father God, you have adopted us as your daughters and sons:
**help us to live as children of light
bringing glory to your holy name.**

Jesus Christ, you suffered and rose again for us:
**teach us to seek first your kingdom
as we deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow you.**

Holy Spirit, you stir us to love and good works:
**strengthen us to fight against sin, the world, and the devil
so that your will, not ours, may be done.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you have saved us:
send us into the world to proclaim your gospel. Amen.

Final blessing

Behold, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who by night stand in the house of the Lord!

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth
bless you from Zion.

[Psalm 134]

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen!

You are most welcome to stay for refreshments.

If you would like someone to pray with you, please ask.

*The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
after you have suffered a little while,
will himself restore you and make you
strong, firm and steadfast.
To him be the power
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

1 Peter 5:10-11

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