

St John's, Harpenden



Parish Eucharist

with Holy Baptism

15th May 2022

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' Matthew 28:19-20

Welcome to St John's, Harpenden!

For over a hundred years Christian worship and ministry have been offered in this place, St John's Harpenden. You are all most welcome. Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith.

A prayer to say before the service:

*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 Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

There is a retiring collection after this service. We are asking for donations using the contactless card scheme. A card reader is available as you leave the church. Thank you



There is an Induction Loop in the church, for those using a hearing aid



Large print orders of service are available on request
Please ask a welcomer



If you require a **gluten free** communion wafer, please let a welcomer know before the beginning of the service



StJohnsAL5

www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

WELCOME

Please stand when the hymns begins and the Procession enters.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 588 And can it be.

1 And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.

3 He left his Father's throne above —
so free, so infinite his grace —
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

GREETING

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

We remain standing for GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

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

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Sit for the NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 11.1-18

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Stand and turn to face the Gospel.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, ^{*} God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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

Sit for the SERMON

A short silence follows the Sermon.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates are presented to the congregation.

The minister first addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome these children/candidates
and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

The minister then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents,
the Church receives these children with joy.
Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.
Will you pray for them,
draw them by your example into the community of faith
and walk with them in the way of Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.
You speak for them today.
Will you care for them, and help them to take their place
within the life and worship of Christ's Church?
With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?
I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

SIGNING OF THE CROSS

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate with Holy Oil, saying

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

When all the candidates have been signed, the minister says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN TO THE FONT 236 Breathe on me breath of God.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead
us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may
be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue
for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and
the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess
together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All **I 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?

All **I 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?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church

All **This is our faith.**

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

THE BAPTISM

The minister pours water on each candidate in turn, saying

N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The minister then says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon
you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim
people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

The President introduces the prayers and the congregation kneels.

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

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

Stand for THE WELCOME AND PEACE

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

The congregation greets the newly baptized with a round of applause

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Congregation shake hands with those immediately around them, saying 'Peace be with you'.

OFFERTORY HYMN 546 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

I O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]

Remain standing

Blessed be God
by who grace creation is renewed
by whose love heaven is opened
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God for ever

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.

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.

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

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.

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.

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 Our Lady Mary, St John, St Alban and all
the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
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

As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to say:

**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.**

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.

AGNUS DEI

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

✠ Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins 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.**

All Baptised Christians who normally receive Communion in their own church are welcome to do so here. If you would like to receive a Blessing, bow your head. Please follow the direction of the wardens. Gluten Free wafers are available.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

430 bread of heaven on thee we feed;

460: O thou who at the Eucharist didst pray

A short period of silence is kept after Communion.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, preserve in your people the new life of baptism; as Christ receives us on earth, so may he guide us through the trials of this world and enfold us in the joy of heaven, where you live and reign, one God for ever and ever. **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.

Sit for the NOTICES.

FINAL HYMN 763a Praise to the Holiest in the heights

1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

2 O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

4 And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

5 O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

6 And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.
**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
And also with you

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God
almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and
remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

THIS DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ.[Alleluia, alleluia!]
Thanks be to God.[Alleluia, alleluia!]

*Remain standing as an Organ Voluntary begins and the
RECESSION takes place.*

**All are invited to join us for refreshments in the Church Hall
after the service**



This booklet is printed on 100% recycled paper

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