

St John's Harpenden



## **Parish Eucharist**

Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
with admission to First Communion

## Welcome to St John's, Harpenden

Today we welcome to communion Clemency, Phyllis, Harry, Luella and Sophia who share faithfully and regularly in our worship. A person is admitted to communion on the basis of their baptism, the sign and pledge of incorporation into the death and resurrection of Christ and the new life of the kingdom of God.

Clemency, Phyllis, Harry, Luella and Sophia have been baptized, and today they receive the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ with us. They are taking a new step in the life to which God has called them in baptism and which we trust they will later affirm in confirmation. We welcome them and look forward to learning with and from them as we journey together on the Way of Christ.



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](http://www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk)



This booklet is printed on 100% recycled paper

## WELCOME AND NOTICES

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN 669 – I heard the voice of Jesus say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast':  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live':  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright':  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.

✠ **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.**

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as

we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

## PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Deacon: Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.' Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed, 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 lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.  
Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,  
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life  
eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Stand for the 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, Heav'nly 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.  
Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the Highest.**

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us, and present us pure and holy  
to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.  
**Amen.**

*Sit for the* NEW TESTAMENT READING    Hebrews 2. 14- 18

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of

atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

## GRADUAL HYMN 693 - Jesus, humble was your birth

Jesus, humble was your birth  
When you came from heaven to earth;  
Every day in all we do,  
Make us humble, Lord, like you.

Jesus, strong to help and heal,  
Showing that your love is real  
Every day in all we do,  
Make us strong and kind like you.

Jesus, when you were betrayed,  
Still you trusted God and prayed;  
Every day in all we do,  
Help us trust and pray like you.

Jesus, risen from the dead,  
With us always, as you said.  
Every day in all we do,  
Help us live and love like you.

*please stand for the* **THE HOLY GOSPEL**  
*Stand and turn towards the Gospel*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a

sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

*Sit for the SERMON*

*A short silence follows.*

## THE WELCOME

Brothers and sisters, today we are welcoming Clemency, Phyllis, Harry, Sophia and Luella to Holy Communion.

As parents and godparents, and as the community of St John's, we share the responsibility of encouraging them in their worship, and of supporting them by our friendship, our example and our prayers.

Will you help them to grow in faith and love?

**We will.**

*The minister addresses those being welcomed*

Clemency, Phyllis, Harry, Sophia and Luella, you love God, you follow Jesus, and you live the Christian life.

Do you wish to receive Holy Communion?

**Yes.**

As Clemency, Phyllis, Harry, Sophia and Luella receive today the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, let us pray that we may all know and reflect the love of Christ.

God of life,  
you invite us to eat at your table;  
may we know your love  
as we share your heavenly food,  
and shine with your light  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*stand for* THE CREED

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.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The president introduces the prayers and the people sit or kneel.*

*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 PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We shake hands with those immediately around us saying 'Peace be with you'.*

#### OFFERTORY HYMN 719 – Lord, the light of your love is shining

Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Refrain*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Refrain*

*Normally a collection is gathered and the gifts processed to the altar. If you would consider offering a gift to the Church to support our ministry, please do so at the end of the service.*

*Thank you for your gift.*

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;  
accept the gifts we bring before you  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name.

**Amen.**

## 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 indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks  
because, by appearing in the Temple,  
he comes near to us in judgement;  
the Word made flesh searches the hearts of all your people  
and brings to light the brightness of your splendour.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever 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!**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God,  
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.**

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 your peace.**

**✠ 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 were prefer a blessing, please bring your order of service with you. Gluten free wafers are available.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

42 – Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.  
*refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.  
*refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.  
*refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.  
*Refrain*

## 463 – Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands  
that holy things have taken;  
let ears that now have heard thy songs  
to clamour never waken.

Lord, may the tongues which 'Holy' sang  
keep free from all deceiving;  
the eyes which saw thy love be bright,  
thy blessed hope perceiving.

The feet that tread thy holy courts  
from light do thou not banish;  
the bodies by thy Body fed  
with thy new life replenish.

*A time of silent prayer is kept after Communion.*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes  
to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this  
sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste  
of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

*Stand for the FINAL HYMN 72 Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Remain standing for the BLESSING AND DISMISSAL*

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins,  
that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace  
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples;  
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 the light and peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain standing as the RECESSION takes place and a VOLUNTARY is played.*