

The Parish Church of St Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
2nd May 2021, 10.15 a.m.

Live at St Giles' Church and
Live Streamed on Facebook

Guidance updated 12th April 2021

Once in the building, in the light of the continued covid restrictions, could we respectfully ask you not to pursue conversation with others seated near you but not part of your family/bubble. Our permissions to meet physically for public worship do not extend to socialising together indoors. The rule of six applies to outdoors, however we must not give any impression of lots of groups of six gathering together outdoors around the building. Please move away to avoid this happening.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP- helping to keep each other safe.

- **MOBILE PHONES**—To avoid loss of signal when livestreaming the service, would you please either turn your phone off or put it onto ‘Airplane Mode’ in settings
- **FACE MASKS** – must be worn unless you are exempt
- **TEST AND TRACE** – Please give your details to the sidesperson or use the NHS ‘Test and Trace’ app
- **HAND HYGIENE** – Please sanitise on entry and exit and before receiving communion
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** – The 2 metres rule to be followed, or if not possible 1 metre plus with mitigations
- **SEATING ARRANGEMENTS** – You will be seated in appropriate seats by the sidespeople
- **SERVICE SHEETS** – Please take home with you
- **MUSIC, SINGING AND RESPONSES** - Singing is not currently permitted for congregations. A small choral group is permitted. All responses will be said using a quiet voice
- **THE PEACE** – please only share by a smile or wave
- **RECEIVING COMMUNION** – The sidespeople will direct you. Please sanitise your hands as directed. When you reach the priest, please remove your mask and stretch out your hands.
- **AT THE END OF THE SERVICE** - Please remain in your seat until a steward asks you to leave, and then please go directly to the designated exit as guided by them.
- **FOOD AND DRINK** – sadly, there can be no refreshments available after the service.
- **LIGHTING OF CANDLES** – can be done after the service.
- **TOILETS** -Toilet facilities are available, but only one person will be able to enter the toilet area at a time to ensure social distancing.
- **TITHES AND OFFERINGS** – please place onto the plate near the exit door.

The Gathering

Hymn

*We hail thy Presence glorious,
O Christ our great high Priest,
O'er sin and death victorious,
At thy thanksgiving feast:
As thou art interceding
For us in heaven above,
Thy Church on earth is pleading
Thy perfect work of love.*

*Through thee in every nation
Thine own their hearts upraise,
Offering one pure Oblation,
One Sacrifice of praise:
With thee in blest communion
The living and the dead
Are joined in closest union,
One Body with one Head.*

R.G.Parsons (1882- 1948)

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

Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Acclamation

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.

cf Revelation 1.17,18

Alleluia, alleluia.

Invitation to confession

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

1 Corinthians 5.7,8

Prayer of Penitence

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

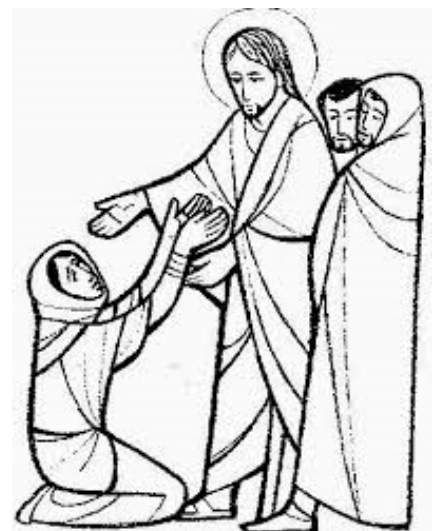
We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

The president says

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

*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 for the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 8.26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'



The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia

Gospel Reading

John 15.1-8

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.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

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

Amen.

cf Ephesians 3

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit
and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Pam; Jonathan; Brenda; Janet; Morag; Catherine; Cynthia; Denzil & David;
Andrew & Jenny; Ali & Barbara Berridge; Ann Knox; Gayle Ablethorpe; Janis
Gallagher; Lucy Nicholl; Rhys Williams; Anita Murray; David Murray; Jonathan
Bellamy; Maureen Steane; Pat Steel; Robert Metcalfe; Tracy Birkitt; Kathryn
Lacey.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Ronald Godfrey Hodson; Alan Chadwick; Joan Delany; Fred Ruddick; Brian
Bayley; Stephen Wilson.

Those whose years mind falls at this time:

Doris Helen Guest; Ernest Dean; Thomas Walsh

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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said
'Peace be with you'.

Then were they glad to see the Lord. Alleluia.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

*Please **DO NOT** share the peace physically*



Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn

*O living Bread from heaven,
Jesu, our Saviour good,
Who thine own self hast given
To be our souls' true food;
For us thy body broken
Hung on the Cross of shame:
This Bread its hallowed token
We break in thy dear name.*

*O stream of love unending,
Poured from the one true Vine,
With our weak nature blending
The strength of life divine;
Our thankful faith confessing
In thy life-blood outpoured,
We drink this Cup of blessing
And praise thy name, O Lord.*

R.G.Parsons (1882-1948)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven.

Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

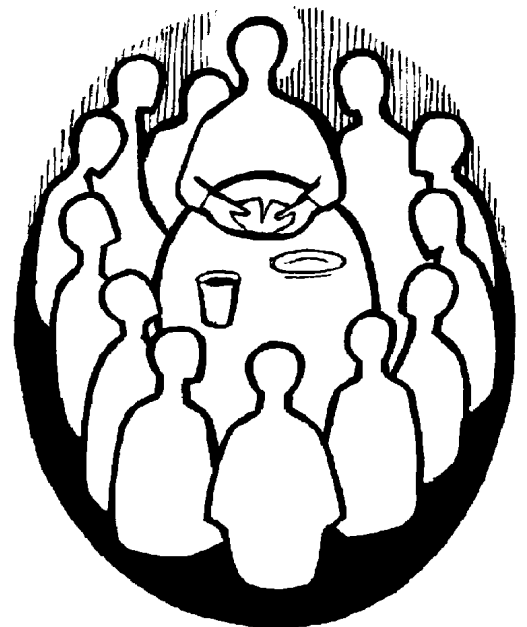
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.



Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore 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 God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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 we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth,

heal the sick,

let the oppressed go free

and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Our Lady, Giles and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom
in the words our Saviour 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 president breaks the consecrated bread.

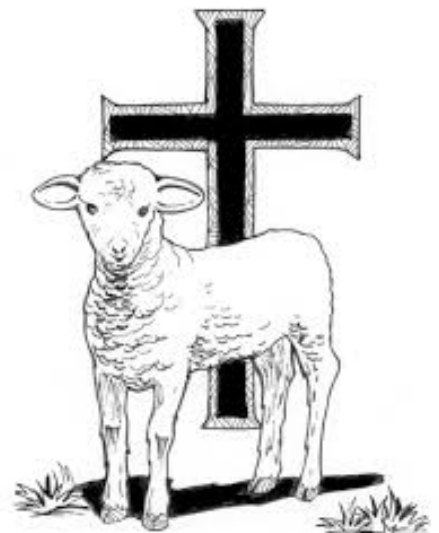
We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

*Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.*



Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The president and people receive communion.

The body of Christ broken for you. **Amen.**

Those who feel unable or do not wish to receive communion at the moment, may use this prayer silently as a spiritual act of communion.

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.

And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me.

May I live and die in your love.

Hymn

*Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead.*

*Thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up Thy people's head.*

Alleluia!

Jesus, true and living Bread!

*Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;*

*here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know Thee now.*

Alleluia!

Thou art here, we ask not how.

*Though the lowliest form doth veil Thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there Thine angels hail Thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia!*

We in worship join with them.

*Paschal Lamb, Thine offering, finished
once for all when Thou was slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain.*

Alleluia!

Cleansing souls from every stain.

*Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship Thee, the Lamb who died.*

Alleluia!

Risen, ascended, glorified!

G. H. Bourne (1840-1925)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Acclamation

Here are words you may trust.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead:

he is our salvation, our eternal glory.

If we die with him, we shall live with him;
if we endure, we shall reign with him.

If we deny him, he will deny us;
if we are faithless, he keeps faith.

For he has broken the power of death
and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

cf 2 Timothy 2.11-13



Notices are given

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
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 the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Hymn (408)

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, Thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The altar party departs.

Organ Voluntary

Tonight, St Giles' - 4.00 p.m. Evensong

This service is not live streamed and booking is not necessary.

Today's Service Sheet is sponsored in memory of

Mary Belford

In everlasting loving memory

1934 - 2007

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England material from which is included, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from The New Revised Standard Version Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Christian Copyright Licence No. 169304

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

All songs covered by CCLI have been reproduced under the CCL Licence No. 169304

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Giles, Pontefract is a charity registered in England and Wales (1135106).