



St John the Divine

Eucharist Service

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday 5th July 2020

Welcome to our live-streamed service, found on the FaceBook page for 'St John the Divine Croydon'.

As we work through ABM's Bible Study guide for this year - titled *Where do we go from here?*, which looks at the Five Marks of Mission - today we engage with the Fifth Mark of Mission: to teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Sentence

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Genesis 2.15

Hymn: Let all creation dance

by Brian Wren (b.1936) - tune: Darwall's 148th
© 1991, Stainer & Bell Ltd, CCL No 632290

- 1. Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns with chance,
unfolding space and time
for nature's art
in glory grows,
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.**
- 2. God's breath each force unfurls,
igniting from a spark
expanding starry swirls,
with whirlpools dense and dark.
Though moon and sun
seem mindless things,
each orbit sings:
Your will be done.**
- 3. Our own amazing earth,
with sunlight, cloud and storms
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms,
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heaven's music plays.**
- 4. Lift heart and soul and voice:
in Christ all praises meet,
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong,
all life befriend,
and kindly tend
creation's song.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We have too often failed to respond to Christ's call
to live his way of sacrificial love,
fearing the cost and being blind to the blessing.
As we prepare to offer thanks and praise for that love
shown to us,
let us call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our
faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

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 AND COLLECT

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you first established humankind
in the earthly paradise of Eden

to husband your creation,
and your Son's teaching revealed a reverence
for your created world:

through the empowerment of your Spirit
strengthen your Church's resolve to protect,
care for, and renew the life of your whole creation;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Our usual order of readings is reversed. The Gospel passage is a description of the authority Jesus has over the created world. This provides a context for the Acts

reading, where Paul gives a speech at the Areopagus in Athens, and refers to a hymn to Zeus that acknowledges that we are part of the god's creation - or, for Christians, God's creation.

Gospel reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew 8.23-27

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Second reading - from the New Testament

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 17.16-34

While Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babbler want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.' Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed

by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Sermon

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God,

who made and loves all that is.

We believe in Jesus Christ,

God's only Son, our Lord,

who was born, lived, died and rose again,

and is coming to call all to account.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

who calls, equips and sends out God's people,

and brings all things to their true end.

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith

we may by your grace receive,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: Word that formed creation

by Marty Haugen (b.1950) - tune: Noel Nouvelet

©1991 GIA Publications Inc., CCL No 632290

1. **Word that formed creation,**

earth and sea and sky;

Word that brings salvation,

Word that will not die;

speak now in us

that we might hear your call;

Living Word of Jesus,

sound within us all.

2. **Love that formed and named us,
filled this clay with breath;
Love that seeks and claims us,
Love beyond all death;
come now and fire
the life that flows from you;
Love that raised up Jesus,
raise us up anew.**
3. **Song of joy and wonder,
sound so wild and free;
voice of wind and thunder,
boundless as the sea;
Music of God,
the love that casts out fear;
Song that sang in Jesus,
sing within us here.**
4. **God of all creation,
form our hearts anew;
God of our salvation,
lead us home to you;
Spirit, inspire
our hearts to hear your call;
living God of Jesus,
come renew us all!**

Blessed be God,
by whose 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks
because by the Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth,
and give us power
to proclaim your gospel to the nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

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.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD
AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains
which have been gathered together and made one
bread:

**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

**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.**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.
Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for
you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with
thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for
you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.
Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed
for you, and be thankful. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Hymn: Great is your faithfulness

by Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960) alt. - tune: Faithfulness
© 1951 Hope Publishing Co., CCL No 632290

- 1. Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father,
in you no shadow of turning we see;
you never fail and your love is unchanging:
as you have been you for ever will be.
Great is your faithfulness.
Great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.**
- 2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in unspoken witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is your faithfulness.
Great is your faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.**
- 3. Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
these are the blessings your love will provide.
Great is your faithfulness.
Great is your faithfulness,**

**morning by morning new mercies we see;
all we have needed your hand has provided:
great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word. **Amen.**

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and those whom you love and pray for,
now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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NOTICES

Pentecost season: All parishioners are invited to participate in a seven week course, working through stories from the Book of Acts, as we explore the 5 Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion, through the ABM Bible Study book: Where do we go from here?

Everyone is encouraged to participate. The booklet has been distributed, and the Sunday readings and sermons are fitting in directly with the Bible Study course. If you haven't yet received your copy, please contact Fr John directly, and he will ensure you receive one.

The Mission Action Team - is discerning which demographic group we as a parish should first intentionally 'come alongside'. We have made good progress in this regard, and now need divine confirmation - so please pray that the team may receive this ahead of our 8 July meeting.

Our bequeathed **Mooroolbark property** is being advertised for sale. Please pray for a quick sale with a generous offer!

Offertory: Thank you to all those who are managing to send their offertories to the Parish Office, or directly into the parish bank account:

- 'St John's - general account' BSB: 033044
Account: 251582