



## St John the Divine

*Eucharist service*

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

14<sup>th</sup> May 2023



*Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine. You are encouraged to participate in whatever way best helps you connect with God, to know how much God loves you and cares about you.*

*Do come forward with the others to make your communion with God, receiving either the sacrament, or a blessing if you prefer.*

*You are invited to take this booklet away with you, to be able to refer to the notices in the back - and also to reflect further on the Scripture readings*

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Welcome and notices*

Hymn: TIS 445 Jesus, where'er your people meet  
*tune: Wareham*

- 1. Jesus, where'er your people meet  
there they behold your mercy seat,  
where'er they seek you, you are found  
and every place is hallowed ground.**
- 2. For you, within no walls confined,  
are present in the humble mind;  
such ever bring you where they come,  
and, going, take you to their home.**
- 3. Dear Shepherd of your chosen few,  
your former mercies here renew;  
here to our waiting hearts proclaim  
the sweetness of your saving name.**
- 4. Here may we prove the power of prayer  
to strengthen faith and sweeten care;  
to teach our faint desires to rise,  
and bring all heaven before our eyes.**

**5. Lord, we are few, but you are near,  
your arm can save, your ear can hear;  
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,  
and make a thousand hearts your own.**

Sentence

'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

*John 14.23*

Let us pray.

**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.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

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.

O God,

you have prepared for those who love you  
joys beyond our understanding;  
pour into our hearts such love for you,  
that, loving you above all else,  
we may obtain your promises  
that exceed all we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ our lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the holy spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### A reading from Acts 17: 22-31

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<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup> 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.’

May your word live in us,

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

### Psalm 66:7-19

<sup>7</sup> who rules by his might for ever,  
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—  
let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

<sup>8</sup> **Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard,**

- <sup>9</sup> who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.
- <sup>10</sup> **For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.**
- <sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;
- <sup>12</sup> **you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.\***
- <sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt-offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,
- <sup>14</sup> **those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**
- <sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.
- <sup>16</sup> **Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.**
- <sup>17</sup> I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.
- <sup>18</sup> **If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.**
- <sup>19</sup> But truly God has listened;  
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

### **A reading from 1 Peter 3: 8-22**

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For

‘Those who desire life  
and desire to see good days,  
let them keep their tongues from evil  
and their lips from speaking deceit;  
let them turn away from evil and do good;  
let them seek peace and pursue it.  
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.  
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,\* and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.\* Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good

conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered<sup>2</sup> for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you<sup>2</sup> to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for<sup>2</sup> a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

May your word live in us,

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

Hymn: New every morning is the love  
*from the BBC Songs of Praise hymn book, published by Oxford University Press;*  
*words: John Keble; tune: Melcombe*

**1. New every morning is the love  
our waking and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life and power and thought.**

**2. New mercies, each returning day,  
Surround your people as they pray;  
new dangers past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.**

**3. If on our daily life our mind  
be set to honour all we find,  
new treasures still, of countless price,  
God will provide for sacrifice**

**4. Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,  
as more of heaven in each we see;  
some softening gleam of love and prayer  
shall dawn on every cross and care.**

**5. The trivial round, the common task,  
will give us all we need to ask;  
room to deny ourselves, a road  
to bring us daily nearer God.**

**6. Only, O Lord, in your dear love  
fit us for perfect rest above;  
and help us, this and every day,  
to live more nearly as we pray.**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 14:15 - 21  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

'If you love me, you will keep<sup>2</sup> my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,<sup>2</sup> to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in<sup>2</sup> you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

#### NICENE CREED

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to  
celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness  
to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

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

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**And also with you. Alleluia.**

Offertory hymn: TIS 153 God is love, let heav'n adore him  
*tune: Abbot's Leigh*

**1. God Is love, let heav'n adore him;  
God is love, let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
God, who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heavens above,  
and who breathes through all creation  
God is love, eternal Love.**

**2. God is love, and gently enfolding  
all the world in one embrace,  
with unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
then they find that selfsame aching  
deep within the heart of God.**

**3. God is love, and, though with blindness  
sin afflicts our human hearts,  
God's eternal lovingkindness  
holding, guiding, grace imparts.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.**



Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.

**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  
that you raised him to life triumphant,  
and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death,  
the reign of sin is ended,  
a new day has dawned,  
a broken world is restored  
and we are made whole once more.

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.**

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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**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 gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us,  
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please come forward to receive communion or a blessing.*

### SENDING OUT GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.

Eternal God, giver of life,  
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.  
May we who celebrate this holy feast  
walk in his risen light  
and bring new life to all creation.

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.**

## BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Almighty God,  
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,  
who raised us to newness of life  
through the waters of baptism,  
and has brought us out of slavery  
into everlasting freedom,  
give you joy and peace in faith  
and bring you to your eternal inheritance;  
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: TIS 372 Jesus lives! your terrors now  
*tune: St Albinus*

- 1. Jesus lives! your terrors now  
can, O death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
now the grave cannot enthrall us.  
*Alleluia!***
- 2. Jesus lives! for us he died;  
then may we, for Jesus living,  
pure in heart, in him abide,  
glory to our Saviour giving.  
*Alleluia!***
- 3. Jesus lives! our hearts know well  
naught from us his love shall sever:  
fame, or hurt, or powers of hell  
tear us from his keeping never.  
*Alleluia!***
- 4. Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
not for us a gloomy portal  
when we take our final breath,  
but the gate to life immortal.  
*Alleluia!***
- 5. Jesus lives! to him the throne  
over all the world is given;  
may we go where he is gone,  
rest and reign with him in heaven.  
*Alleluia!***



*Thank you for joining in our worship today. We endeavour to provide an after-service 'cuppa' in our meeting room next to the foyer after most Sunday services - you are invited to join us.*

*Do take this booklet away with you, for reference and further reflection. If you wish to know more about our community life, speak to any of the regulars (often wearing name tags), ask for a welcome brochure, or visit our website.*

#### **Permissions**

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## **NOTICES**

**Rev'd Stewart Taplin** is our Locum Vicar for the next few months. Fr Stewart is available on Sundays and Wednesdays, and as needed on other occasions. He can be contacted on 0402 080 366

### **TDRM – Thank You**

Thank you to all the St John's TDRM team members who assisted with preparing and serving the meal at The Dining Room Mission last Tuesday evening. It was another happy team effort and much appreciated by the guests and other volunteers at TDRM. Well done everyone!

Our next rostered day to cook & serve is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Synod representatives needed**

The parish is still seeking 2 representatives. Please talk to Fr Stewart or one of the Wardens if you are interested.

**Birthdays** are to now be celebrated on the third Sunday of each month. Everyone who has a May birthday, please speak up! We will celebrate your birthdays together at morning tea on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- 17<sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day Eucharist 10am
- 21<sup>st</sup> May Bishop Paul Barker visits to preach and celebrate at the 8am & 10 am services. Meeting to follow.  
Birthday Celebrations for May
- 28<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost Sunday – Celebrant: Rev'd Wendy Pullin  
Parish Network Ministry meeting after 10am service
- 4<sup>th</sup> June Trinity Sunday  
City to City to visit for morning tea – all invited

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> May | <u>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter</u>                      |
|                          | 8am Eucharist   |
|                          | 10am Sung Eucharist   |
|                          | 8pm AA meeting  |
| Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> May | 10.30am AI Anon meeting                                     |
| Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> May | 1pm AA meeting  |
|                          | 5.30pm community meal: TDRM                                 |
| Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> May | 10am Ascension Day Eucharist                                |
|                          | 5.30pm community meal: Winter Shelter                       |
|                          | 7.30pm NA meeting   |
| Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> May | 10.45am BUPA  |
|                          | 10.30am AA meeting  |
|                          | 7.30pm AA meeting   |
| Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> May | -   |
| Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> May | 7.00am AA meeting   |
|                          | 10.30am Focus on Faith & Friendship                         |
|                          | 6.00pm Lai Christian Church                                 |
| Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> May | <u>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter – Bishop Paul Barker</u> |
|                          | 8am Eucharist   |
|                          | 10am Sung Eucharist   |
|                          | 8pm AA meeting  |