

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

All Age Eucharist with 'Blessing of the Backpacks'



'I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing'

Genesis 12.2

Opening Piano Music

Butterfly & Little Bird, from Lyric Pieces
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

The Gathering

The minister greets the people.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Opening Prayer

The following is sung.

We gather round in this holy space -
Holy Space, filled with grace;
We gather round in this holy space
To do what Jesus taught us.

We hear the stories of our King -
Eternal life, for us he'll win;
We share his meal and pray with him
And do what Jesus taught us.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, 'If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest'. So let us bring all that we are to Jesus - including our sins and our failures to love - knowing that God in Christ forgives us.

Jesus came in humility to share our lives:

forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus came with good news for all people:

forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Jesus came in love to a world of suffering:

forgive our self-centredness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The minister says:

May the God of love

bring you back to himself,

forgive you your sins,

and assure you of his eternal love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

The following is sung.

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father.

To God be glory for ever!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.

Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.

To God be glory for ever!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.

Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit.

To God be glory for ever!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

The Collect

The minister introduces a period of silent prayer.

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

A Reading precedes the Gospel Reading.

Psalm 119.33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 18.15-20

Jesus said 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

A Prayer of Blessing for Backpacks

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers.

Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and at church. May they be guided by your love.

We pray too for everyone who is making a fresh start this September - that they will have a sense of God's sustaining presence with them as they step into the future in faith.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us all.

Amen.

After the Address a piece of music may be played.

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

The minister introduces the prayers.

One of these responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy: or Lord, hear us:
hear our prayer. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

And 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 minister introduces the Peace.

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.
The peace of the triune God be always with you:
and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

A piece of music may be played.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it.

The following prayer is used:

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
give us the bread of everlasting life,
and make us branches of the true vine.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Question: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Answer: Listen, and we will hear.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us your love,
even when things go wrong.
Jesus knew hurt and pain.
Through him you wipe away our tears,
and fill us with your peace.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and proclaim your praise:

**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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question: Why do we share this bread and wine?

Answer: Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question: How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer: Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The minister 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.**

We say together the 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 peace.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Please come forward for Holy Communion (in one kind only) as directed by the president and/or the stewards. Communion will be administered in silence, and so before the administration the president will say, 'The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life', and all who intend to receive are invited to reply, 'Amen'.

Those not receiving Holy Communion today may wish to pray this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

During the distribution, one or two solo songs may be sung, or music played

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The post communion prayer is said:

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The following is sung.

Thank you for the meal we eat,
Thank you for the meal we eat,
Thank you for the meal we eat,
Christ brings us life.

Now let us go out from this place,
Now let us go out from this place,
Now let us go out from this place,
To do God's work.

The Dismissal

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing Piano Music

Soldier's March & selected pieces from Album for the Young
Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

PARISH OF ESHER

Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS

Telephone: 01372 462282

Email: office@esherparish.org.uk

Website: www.esherparish.org.uk

All Age Eucharist Order of Service 6 September 2020

