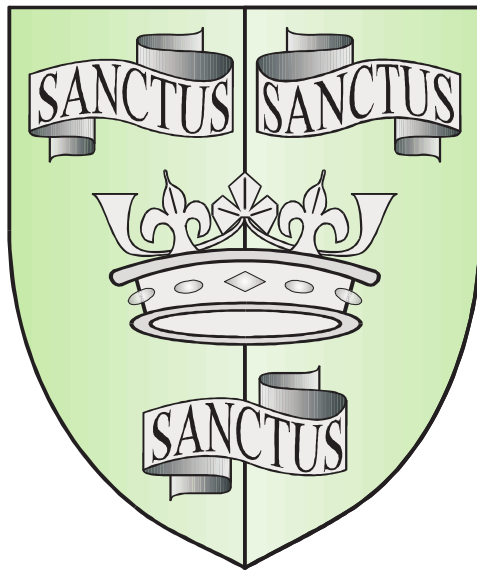


# All Saints Parish Church Highfield, Headington



## Holy Communion

# Welcome to our church!

We are the Church of England parish church for Highfield, Headington.

We welcome everyone to join us on Sundays for our worship. We hope you will find the service simultaneously traditional and joyful.

Please do not feel any pressure to participate in ways you are not comfortable with. Some prefer simply to sit quietly and listen. The directions to sit, stand or kneel are only invitations.

We reuse these service booklets, but the inserted sheet (with prayers, readings and notices) is for you to take home.

We welcome those from other Christian Churches who are baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity to receive Holy Communion. We welcome children who are not confirmed to come forward during Communion to receive a blessing.

If you would prefer not to receive Holy Communion for any reason you are still most welcome to come forward for a blessing (just keep your hands at your side so the minister knows).

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## **Psalm 100**

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness;*

*come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the Lord is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving*

*and his courts with praise;*

*give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;*

*his faithfulness continues through all generations.*



# How we worship

Our service follows an overall shape:

First, there is the **call to worship**. The gospel is God's call for us to enter His presence. Everything we do is a response to God's initiative of grace. The minister therefore welcomes people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and speaks of the grace, mercy and peace to be found in His presence.

However the presence of the Holy God reveals the fact that we have sinned and fallen short of His glory. We therefore begin with **confession**. Here we readily acknowledge and confess our sinfulness and that we deserve nothing from God. We remember gratefully that, in Christ, God has provided the means for forgiveness. Believing God's promise, we confess our sins kneeling humbly as His people. Once we have confessed, we hear God's promise of forgiveness spoken by the minister and then stand to sing God's praise in the Gloria.

Wonderfully the Gospel offers even more than the forgiveness of sins. It is also about us being conformed into God's image and drawn closer into His loving arms. Therefore confession and forgiveness are not the end. God wants to lead and nurture us. He does this through His Word read and taught. In this God **consecrates** us, or sets us apart, telling us what it means to live as His people. We listen to His Word read aloud and then expounded in the sermon. We respond with a joyful confession of our loyalty to the faith in the form of the creed.

We then draw near to God in holy **communion**. In this meal God signs and seals His promises to us in Christ, by His Spirit. This is a weekly practice because without it the story of the Gospel is not complete. God desires that we draw near to Him and enjoy His fellowship. This is the goal of the Gospel.

Having been renewed by God, we are then **commissioned** to go back into the world 'in the power of the Spirit to live and work to his praise and glory' – so that others, too, might come to know and participate in God's wonderful grace.

Much more explanation could be given about each of the elements of our worship - but there is no substitute for living in the story of the gospel week-by-week. May God bless you richly as you participate with us in the wonderful message of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.

## Welcome

*Notices may be given at this point in the service*

## Hymn *(please stand)*

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

**All Amen.**

## The Greeting

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

**All and also with you.**

*Please sit or kneel*

## Prayer of Preparation

**All 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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Lord, have mercy upon us,  
and incline our hearts to keep these laws**

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
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.

**All Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **Gloria**

**All 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**

*The Collect is said, and all respond*

**All Amen.**

*Please sit*

## Readings

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading*

*At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Notices may be given at this point in the service*

**Hymn** *(please stand)*

## Gospel Reading

*Please remain standing*

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please remain standing for a short prayer and then sit for the sermon*

## Sermon

## **The Nicene Creed**

***All*** 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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
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.



*Please sit*

## Prayers of Intercession

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

**All** accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*Please stand*

## The Peace

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit, we were all baptised into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace

And builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All** and also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Hymn

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Please sit*

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.

For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

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*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
our offering 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.

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.

**All Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.**

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

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*The president and people receive communion.*

*Please allow the choir to receive first, then from the front of the church backward.*

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies:*  
**Amen or Thanks be to God**

## Prayers after Communion

*The Post Communion or another suitable prayer may be said.*

*Followed by:*

**All** Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.

**Hymn** *(please stand)*

*Please remain standing*

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*You are most welcome to join us for refreshments served at the back of church.*

If you would like a quiet place to pray you are most welcome to use the Lady Chapel (in southeast corner of the church).

If you would like someone to pray with, please talk to the minister or anyone involved in the service.

### **DONATIONS**

We do not take a collection during the service.

If you would like to make a donation you can do so by:

- 1) using a gift aid envelope and putting it in the basket by the doors,
- 2) online via the Parish Giving Scheme , or
- 3) via our secure website, using this QR code:



You can see this symbol in several places in the church. How many can you find?



The 'Chi-Rho' is an ancient symbol used by Christians since the earliest days of the church. It combines the first two letters of the Greek word *Χριστός* (which means Christ) with Alpha and Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet). It is inspired by Revelation 1:8, in which Christ says "I am the Alpha and Omega".