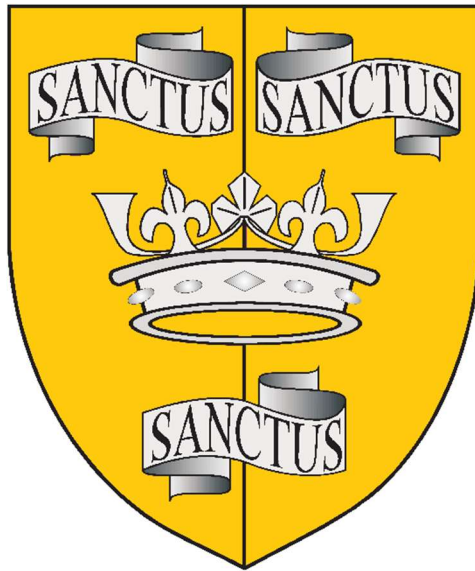


All Saints Parish Church Highfield, Headington



Holy Communion
Easter

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 stand or kneel are only invitations.

We reuse these service booklets, but the inserted bulletin is for you to take home.

We welcome communicant members 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.

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:

We begin with a **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 humbly as His people. Please feel free to kneel. 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

Hymn *(please stand)*

Call to worship

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

All Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6:35

Please kneel or sit

Confession

**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.**

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

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.

***All* 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.

***All* Lord, hear us and help us.**

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

***All* Lord, hear us and help us.**

Shout for joy, you heavens;
rejoice, you earth;
burst into song, you mountains!
For the LORD comforts his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

Isaiah 49:13

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 to sing the Gloria

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.**

Consecration

The Collect

The Collect is said, and all respond **Amen.**

Please sit

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)*

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

Sermon

Please stand

The Apostles' Creed

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please sit

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

Lord, hear us

All Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

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

Please stand

Communion

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord

John 20:19-20

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

Please remain standing

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and opened wide the gate of glory.
In his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,
the long reign of sin is ended,
a broken world is being renewed
as humanity is restored to the image of your glory.

We give you thanks and praise
for the gospel we have received.
Christ died for our sins. Alleluia.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Death came to all through Adam,
and sin reigned for a time.
New life without end comes through Christ,
and he reigns for ever. Alleluia.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

cf Romans 5:21

Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O grave, is your sting?
Death has been swallowed up in victory,
the victory you give us in Christ. Alleluia.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

cf 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and *singing*:

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

cf Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8-11

Sanctus

Moderate speed *mp*

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

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.**

Prayer of Humble Access

**All Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

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.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies:

Amen *or* Thanks be to God

Commissioning

The Post Communion or another suitable prayer may be said. Followed by:

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn *(please stand)*

Please remain standing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

All In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

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:

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



Can you find these windows in the church?



The central window depicts a scene from a famous book called *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. An allegory of the Christian life, it was first published in 1678. It relates the many challenges encountered on a journey towards the Celestial City, seen just ahead here.

What do you think the other two windows teach us about how to persevere as Christians?