

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 both traditional and joyful.

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

We celebrate the Lord's Supper every week at All Saints. We warmly invite to the Lord's table all those who are baptised disciples of Jesus Christ. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to the minister.

If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion you are still most welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Psalm 100:1-2

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

*Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*



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)*

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:6-7

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.**

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

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)*

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, 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

Communion

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

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,
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 *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*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

mf heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. *f* Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please sit

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.**

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 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:

- 1) using a gift aid envelope and putting it in the baskets by the doors, or
- 2) online via the Parish Giving Scheme



Can you find this symbol in the church? How many can you see?



This is an ancient and popular Christian symbol. It comes from ancient Greek. In Greek capitals, the first three letters of the name Jesus - *ΙΗΣΟΥΣ* - look like IHS.

However, in places where people only knew Latin, and not Greek, they thought it stood for something else! In Latin, IHS could be an abbreviation for *'Iesus Hominum Salvator'* which means *'Jesus Saviour of Mankind'*

The little cross beam on the H reminds us that Jesus saved the world by dying for us on the cross.

www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk