

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

# Family Communion Service and Harvest Thanksgiving



*'Speak to the people of Israel and say to them:  
When you enter the land that I am giving you and  
you reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the  
first fruits of your harvest to the priest.'*

Leviticus 23.10



# The Gathering

*The minister introduces the service.*

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

## Opening Prayer

Creator God, you breathe your own life into us;  
you give us the gift of life every day.  
You placed us on this earth with its flowers and fruits,  
its minerals and waters, with its living creatures of grace and beauty.  
You give us the care of the earth.  
Help us to honour you by honouring your creation.

**Amen.**

*A hymn is sung.*

## Harvest Acclamation

**The earth has yielded its harvest;  
God, our God, has blessed us.**

You visit the earth and water it;  
**you make it very plenteous.**  
You soften the ground with showers;  
**and bless the increase of it.**  
You crown the year with your goodness;  
**And your paths overflow with plenty.**  
The meadows are clothed with sheep;  
**The valleys stand so thick with corn,  
They shout for joy and sing.**

**The earth has yielded its harvest;  
God, our God, has blessed us.**

## Prayer for Forgiveness

When we are unkind to people,

**and forget that all are God's children;**

when we are careless with the animals

**and forget they too are God's creation;**

when we ill-treat the land,

**and forget it is the splendour of God himself;**

forgive us, O God of love, and reconcile us to yourself,

to one another and to your Creation.

**Teach us all**

**that the earth and all its fullness is yours,**

**the world and those who dwell in it.**

Remind us that your Son too enjoyed the fruits of harvest in Galilee,

and joins us now as we celebrate together today.

**Help us always to care for the gift of life,**

**now and always.**

**Amen.**

*The minister says:*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw us to himself,

and cleanse us from all our sins

that we may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*The Gloria may be used.*

**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.**

## A Harvest Prayer

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;  
as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish  
and respect this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Word

## 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn or psalm may be sung.*

## Gospel Reading

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*A talk, sermon or homily will now follow.*

## 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.*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

Lord, in your mercy:  
**Hear our prayer.**

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

## The Peace

*The minister introduces the Peace in these or similar words.*

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Preparation of the Table

*A hymn is sung.*

With this bread that we bring

**we shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring

**we shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,  
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**We shall remember Jesus.**

## The Communion 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.**

It is right to praise you, Father,

Lord of all creation;

in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, 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 in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death  
and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit  
that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood  
of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voices to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## 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.**

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.**

*All are invited to come forward to receive communion or a blessing.  
During communion the choir will sing an anthem.*

*After communion the children are invited to bring the harvest gifts to the altar, and the minister says:*

Father, bless these gifts which we offer in your name.

May those who receive them know your love  
and find a rich blessing.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer for the World**

*All now pray together:*

We pray for those who are hungry or homeless,  
for all for whom the harvest brings sadness and little joy.

For those who are lonely or helpless,  
for those who are disappointed in life,  
and their faith put to the test.

**Lord, bless them in your love.**

For those who are downtrodden or oppressed,  
for those without power to negotiate or bargain.  
For all who struggle for change, striving for justice.  
For all who influence our thinking,  
our buying and consuming.  
for all who formulate policy and manage the markets.  
For fairness and compassion in all walks of life.

**Lord, bless them in your love.**

Help us to be responsible stewards of your world,  
to use it sparingly, and to take care of your creation  
and for each other.

Lord, may your Kingdom come,

**your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Amen.**

*Notices may be given, and a closing hymn is sung.  
During this hymn a collection will be taken.*

# The Dismissal

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
may the rains fall softly upon your fields.  
Until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you and those whom you love,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **PARISH OF ESHER**

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

Telephone: 01372 462282

Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk)

Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)

Family Communion Service and Harvest Thanksgiving Order of Service 2022