



**THE
PARISH EUCHARIST
AND
CIVIC SERVICE**

**In the presence of
The Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon**

Councillor Kate

Rolfe



**The Seventh Sunday of Easter
21st May 2023**

VOLUNTARY

Prayer on screen during Voluntary:

Thank you, Father,
for this ancient place of prayer:
for the faith that has blossomed here,
and for the worship in all seasons offered here;
for the lives that have been touched here,
and commitment stirred into life here.
Bless us all who come here today,
and speak to us with the voice of your love;
for you are a God of renewal and steadfastness,
now and for ever.
Amen.

THE GATHERING

Please stand as the Mayor and Civic Party enter.

*The Vicar, the Rev. Patrick Taylor welcomes the people
after which a moment of stillness is kept as we open our hearts to the
presence of the risen Jesus here with us now*

Please stand as the hymn begins.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hanover

1 O worship the King all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

3 This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
almighty, thy power hath founded of old:

hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 O measureless Might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

THE GREETING

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

All Amen.

President The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

President Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Please be seated

The President gives an informal introduction.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

President Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city.
On our town: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division,
jealousy and bitterness.

On us: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you bring pardon and peace to those who turn to you.
Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

President

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you + from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All

Amen.

Please stand

THE GLORIA

Mass of St Thomas

All

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

THE COLLECT for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

President Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

Please be seated

*The President introduces the Mayor to the congregation
and invites her to share her priorities for the coming year.*

The Vicar addresses the Town Mayor:

Vicar Will you, Councillor Kate Rolfe, having been elected to the
office of Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, declare that you
will
to
Town Mayor I will.

duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of this office according
the best of your judgement and ability?

The Vicar addresses the Congregation:

Vicar Will you, people of Stratford-upon-Avon, declare that you will
support your Mayor as she fulfils her duties, for the common
good of this town and its citizens?

All We will.

*The President prays for the Mayor and her Consort
and then invites her to give the first reading*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*A collection of verses from Isaiah, Amos, Micah and Matthew
on the themes of charity and justice.*

Mayor This is the Word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

3 Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

GOSPEL READING *read by The Rev'd Dr. Paul Edmondson*

Minister Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 10. 25-37

Minister This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to You O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev'd Dr. Paul Edmondson

Chaplain to Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council

Music for Reflection

When you're down and troubled
And you need some lovin' care
And nothin', nothin' is goin' right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night

Chorus:

*You just call out my name
And you know, wherever I am
I'll come runnin'
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
You've got a friend*

If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you'll hear me knockin' at your door

Chorus

Now, ain't it good to know that you've got a friend...

Source: LyricFind. Songwriter: Carole King. Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by Mike Rolfe, the Mayor's Consort

Let us pray for the people of this Town of Stratford-upon-Avon, that we may be united in building a society in which everyone can live with dignity and hope. We pray especially for our young people, that they may be given opportunities to flourish.

Holy God,

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for the work of the Mayor's chosen charities this year: The Foodbank, Street Arts and the Stratford Youth Collective. We give thanks for their work and pray for all those they help and support.

Holy God,

All Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our Mayor and Town Councillors, especially those who are newly elected and all those who serve in public office, that they may lead with courage and wisdom. We pray also for the churches of this town, that they may witness to Christ's love by reaching out to those in need and supporting the community.

Holy God,

All Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for leaders around the world, that they might find ways to bring an end to war and violence, and promote peace and justice for all nations. We continue pray for peace in Ukraine.

Holy God,

All Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are suffering, especially with mental or physical illness.

Our prayers have been asked for

We remember before God those who have recently died
and those whose anniversary falls at this time.....

We give thanks for those who have gone before us and pray that we, following their example, may serve our communities faithfully. We commend ourselves and all people to God's unfailing love.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

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

All The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

President Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Darwall's 148th

1 Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

2 Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
God's praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

3 Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good or ill,
who ever lives!

4 My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love!
Let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

Prayer of PREPARATION of the TABLE

President Blessed be God,
who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor,
who fills our praise.
All **Blessed be God forever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

President The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President 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
and have made us all,
each wonderfully different.

We give you thanks
that, after Jesus had ascended far above all heavens,
and was seated at the right hand of your majesty,
he sent forth upon the universal Church
your holy and life-giving Spirit;
that through his glorious power
the joy of the everlasting gospel
might go forth into all the world.

And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Mass of St

Thomas

**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.**

President

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.

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.

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.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The President introduces the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The President breaks the consecrated bread

President

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All

**God here among us, Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life.**

THE INVITATION

President

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI

Mass of St Thomas

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

*Please come to a communion station when indicated by a Warden.
The President and people receive Communion or a blessing*

Anthem

I give to you a new commandment

Peter Nardone

*I give to you a new commandment, a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another as I have loved you. Amen.*

COMMUNION HYMN

Channel Of Peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And dying that we're born to eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All **Eternal God,**
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge

the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

THE DISMISSAL

NOTICES

THE BLESSING

President The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty, †
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'*

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze: (refrain)

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: (refrain)

4 When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art! '(refrain)

***We face the doors of the church as we prepare to go out and be
Christ's risen presence in the world***

President Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

VOLUNTARY