

# Zoom and Live Communion Service

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

25th June 2023



## Call to Worship (based on Psalm 68:4-5, 19)

**Come, sing praises to God! Rejoice in his presence!  
For He is our God: a Father to the fatherless, and the  
defender of all who need protection; the One in  
whom the lonely find a home, and the prisoner finds  
release. Bless the Lord, the God of our salvation, who  
sustains and strengthens us, day after day! Let's  
worship God together!**

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill Navigators sing 'On this lovely  
summer's day'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoQ9pIV9U0c>

## Opening Prayer

God of grace,

We open our hearts, minds  
and souls to worship to you.  
Thank you that today we dwell in your kingdom  
and live in your presence.  
Thank you that as we gather together  
we join with all Christians across the world  
to glorify your holy name.  
Come be with us, inspire us and lead us in our time together.  
We ask all this in the beautiful name of Jesus. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which 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 debts, as we forgive our  
debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and  
the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.  
Matthew 6: 9-13 (NKJV)

**Communion Song: Behold the Lamb**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aecG01Ky9wE>

## Holy Communion - Invitation and prayer

Welcome to our communion service. We hope that as you participate in it, you have a real sense of the presence of God, as we remember His death and resurrection – in bread and in wine. As we come to this table, let's be quiet for a moment and prepare our hearts.

## (Moment of silence)

Rev 3:20 says, 'Listen, I am standing at the door knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me. This meal is not my idea or that of the church. It was initiated by Jesus Christ Himself. It is for all who love Jesus or for all who want to love Him more.

We come to this, the Lord's table, bringing ourselves, families, friends, communities, hopes, pain, failings, frustrations and struggles to God in a silent prayer. We come to God, asking for His forgiveness where we have failed Him our family and friends. We come to God asking for His help and strength to serve Him, His people and creation well, with and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' (John 6:47-51)

**All: We are the people of God. We are the body of Christ. We are scattered, and the body of Christ is broken, but as we gather, the body of Christ is remembered. Together we gather in obedience to Jesus' command, to remember, and to share together in breaking bread and drinking wine, in remembrance of the death of Christ. Each piece of bread that we eat was once scattered across the fields, and the grain that God gave to grow has become for us the bread of life. Each sip of wine that we drink was once many vines, and the grapes that God gave to grow have become for us the new wine of God's kingdom. In our communion with one another, we are fed with the bread of heaven that sustains us, and we drink the wine of gladness that brings us joy.**

The people of Israel were sustained by God through their years of wilderness wandering: 'The Israelites ate manna for forty years, until they came to a habitable land; they ate manna, until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.' (Exodus 16.35) '[God] rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.' (Psalm 78.24).

And we too are God's people, sustained by God through the wilderness of this world. Jesus said to His disciples: 'Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Then Jesus said to them, "very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to Him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" (John 6.31-35).

On the night of His arrest, Jesus took bread, and after He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body. It is for you'. Do this to remember me.' In the same way, after the supper He took the cup and said, 'This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Drink from it, all of you, to remember me'. So now, following Jesus' example and command, we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things of the world which Christ will make special. And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us do so too.

## Prayer

God of all those who are scattered and broken, you call us to wholeness. We thank you for the love demonstrated in giving your son, that we might be united with you. We thank you that in Christ you enter into the pain, uncertainty, and fear of our world; and that your arms are open in loving embrace, gathering us to you as a mother hen gathers her brood under her wing, as a shepherd gathers his flock. We thank you for bread and wine, symbols and signs for us today, of your faithfulness to your people through all generations. Amen.

## Let us share in bread together.

'Jesus said this is my body broken for you. I now invite you where you are to break, share or eat bread (or whatever you've got to hand. Eat recognising that Jesus, the Saviour of the world died for you, His body so that you might know freedom, healing and peace in your life.

## Let us share in wine together

After supper Jesus took the cup 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood', He said. **We remember that Jesus will come again. And so, as we drink together now, where you are – where I am, we remember that Jesus is alive and the hope that we have is that He will come again. Our hearts cry is Maranatha! Come Lord, back to this needy world. And so, together, we drink.**

## Prayer after Communion and Prayer for others

**(H SEGGIE)** We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope.

From where you are to where you need us, **Jesus, now lead on.** From the security of what we know to the adventure you will reveal to us, **Jesus, now lead on.** To refashion the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of your Kingdom, **Jesus, now lead on.** From the known to the unknown, from the normal to the new normal – **Jesus, now lead on.**



## Sharing peace

We cannot share the peace of Christ together as we do during our gathered Holy Communion service. **But maybe where you are you are, you might choose to pray a blessing of peace over those whom you know and love – those in your church family that you can't be amongst or those that are your friends and family around and about you – that they might know God's peace.**

**The peace of Christ be with you.** Let share peace or ask God to bless our family and friends with His peace.

## Closing Song: 'What a friend we have in Jesus'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdD-wMyPIdQ>

## Final blessings

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever, Amen**

God is good, all the time...