

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL
Holy Communion Service
31 OCTOBER 2021



CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, to a new heaven and earth,
To the holy city, God's new Jerusalem,
The dwelling place of God is with humanity:
God wipes away the tears from our eyes.

Our help is in the Lord our God,
Who made heaven and earth.
In life and in death we belong to our loving Father.
Baptized into Christ's death, we live for Him.
United by the Holy Spirit – we shine in Him
So, come, let us Worship the Lord, our God!

OPENING SONG: MAJESTY, WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cv2jyDMrPE>

Majesty worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory
Honour and praise
Majesty kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise

So exalt lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify come glorify
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings

CCLI Song # 1527, Jack Hayford© 1981 New Spring (/ Small Stone Media BV,
Holland (Admin. in the UK/Eire by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org)

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: We've come as saints of God, to a new heaven
and earth, to the holy city, God's new Jerusalem,

**All: The dwelling place of God is with humanity: God
wipes away the tears from our eyes.**

Leader: The earth is God's and the fullness thereof.
The words and all who dwell therein.

**All: Who shall ascend the hill of God, and who shall
stand in God's holy place?**

Leader: All whose hands are clean and hearts
pure? Who shall know God's vindication and
blessing?

**All: We give thanks to God, who has qualified us to
share the in the heritage of the saints.**

Leader: May our hearts and minds be open to new
realities in Christ. We want to be counted among
saints who will inherit your kingdom. We desire to
know your love, care and forgiveness when and
where we have failed you in word, thought and
deed.

May we, in this hour, walk in your grace and
forgiveness and may we commit ourselves to living
lives that are pleasing to you, and may we hear
you remind us of words in the Holy Scriptures that

**We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to
ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if
we die, we die to the Lord. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLE READING: 1 KINGS 5:1-5; IJOHN 3.1-3

PRAYER FOR OTHERS/ ALL SAINTS DAY REFLECTION

Our father in Heaven, tomorrow is all saints day –
Nonetheless, we offer a prayer of thanks for those in
our life who blessed, guided, and inspired our journey
with Christ. We give you thanks for those who have
gone before us, who are now with you in paradise. We
thank you for ordinary persons with laughter in their
eyes and kindness in their deeds. We thank you for
common ones with compassionate hearts and listening
ears.

We thank you for holy ones who saw light in the midst
of darkness and saw potential when others saw dead
ends. We thank you for strong ones who remained
faithful in times of crisis, who endured suffering yet
remained joyous, who fought for justice when they
could have chosen comfort.

Help us celebrate the triumph of your saints in glory,
to walk in their shadows, benefit from their examples
and to enter with them into the inexpressible joys you
have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

The Lord of the ages, we praise you for all your servants who have done justice, loved mercy and walked humbly with you. We praise you O God for all apostles and martyrs and saints of every time and place, who in life and death have witnessed to your truth and love.

We praise you, O God for all those who answered your call to preach the Gospel in word and through their actions whether it be at home or in foreign lands. We remember with gratitude those who have shown compassion to the least, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger and offering mercy and forgiveness to those who have gone astray.

We thank and praise you, O God for those who lost their lives during (or because of) their service to others – those who cared for the sick, comforted the dying, visited the lonely, consoled those in grief.

We remember with Gratitude, and we especially honour the memory of the beloved of this congregation, and those known to us who have lived among us and shared their faith in personal ways, who have finished the race and now reign on high with you.

We honour our memories of those living or dead, here with us in this meeting or elsewhere in your world - who have graced our lives in many ways. We lift up to you, in silence names of parents, relatives, carers, leaders in church and society, friends, colleagues and others who have touched our lives in many ways, in many places.

Silence

Hear our prayers, O God, for the names we have lifted up to you. We remember them with gratitude, ask that like those who have shown your light towards us, we too will shine your light to those people and dark places that desperately need your love and enriching presence.

Last but not least, Lord, with tender compassion and transforming power come among us, and make us members of your household “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ himself as the cornerstone”.

Strengthen us in faith, expand our vision and fill us with the hope of your Spirit – that together we may build up your dwelling place ourselves, becoming its living stones.

Let the house which rises be a living witness that all people may be lifted up by the hope of a world made new. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

A MODERN AFFIRMATION

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith we now declare:

All: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love, as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

(John W) Invitations to Communion

This is a special time of remembering, remembering those Saints who died in the Lord. We remember at his table the one who made us all Saints, the Special One Jesus Christ. He invited his followers to do this in remembrance of him. All are invited to bring memories to this table and present them to Jesus – who is here.

Many of the Saints whom we honour were people with whom we shared meals, Family meals at the diner table, holiday feasts in the dining room, picnic table barbecues, or a carry-in dinner. Jesus ate meals with saints and sinners. So powerful was his presence in life that even in death those who had shared meals with him sensed He was still present when they broke bread and shared a cup.

The love feast of the early church is repeated here today when we share the meal at this communion table and sense his continued love in our lives.

(Tom) Holy Communion

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall not thirst. With Christians around the world and throughout the centuries, we gather around these symbols of bread and wine — simple, simple elements that speak of life, nourishment and transformation.

Let us pray.

Loving God, we thank you that you are as close to us as breath, that your love is constant and unfailing. We

thank you for all that sustains life, and especially for Jesus Christ, who teaches us how to live out an ethic of justice and peace, and for the promise of transformation made manifest in his life, death and resurrection.

We ask you to bless this bread and this cup. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, that we may join with you in promoting the well-being of all creation. Amen.

We remember on the night when Jesus and the disciples had their last meal together, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying "This is my body which is broken for you. **Take and eat it, and as often as you do, remember me.**"

In the symbol of the broken bread, we participate in the life of Christ and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.

In the same way he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to the disciples, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

In the symbol of this cup, we participate in the new life Christ brings.

So come one, come all – Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body....

The body of Christ broken for you....

The blood of Christ shed for you

(Heather) Prayer after holy Communion

Let us pray.

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. Amen.



PEACE OF THE LORD...

CLOSING SONG: BECAUSE HE LIVES, I CAN FACE TOMORROW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9xYEyijQ>

BENEDICTION

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace.**

SUGGESTED VIDEO AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE – ‘OH WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN’

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