



## Welcome to St Botolph's Church

Jesus said "If anyone is thirsty,  
let them come to me and drink"

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

### **Welcome**

### **Gathering**

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

### ***If you are able, please stand***

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore Him; the Lord is His name.

Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on His heart He will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay on His shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
He will accept for the name that is dear;  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore Him: the Lord is His name.

### ***Prayer of Preparation***

**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.**

### ***Confession***

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.

**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.**

### ***Absolution***

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. **Amen.**

### ***Gloria – (please stand)***

**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.**

***Collect***

**Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

***New Testament Reading – Acts 8: 26 – 36 read by Phillip Elwell***

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means ‘queen of the Ethiopians’). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’ <sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ Philip asked. <sup>31</sup> ‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone explains it to me?’ So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

‘He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.’

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?’ <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?’ <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way

rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord    **Thanks be to God**

### **Hymn**

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
Here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

## **Gospel Reading – John 15:1 - 8** read by Phillip Elwell

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

<sup>1</sup> 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

#### **The Creed**

*(Page 5, para 8)*

#### **Prayers of Intercession** led by David Poppleton

#### **The Peace**

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

*Let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

#### **Hymn**

And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,  
and having with us him that pleads above,  
we here present, we here spread forth to thee  
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,  
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

Look, Father, look on his anointed face,  
and only look on us as found in him;  
look not on our misusings of thy grace,  
our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:  
for lo, between our sins and their reward  
we set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.

And then for those, our dearest and our best,  
by this prevailing presence we appeal:  
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,  
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;  
from tainting mischief keep them white and clear,  
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,  
most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;  
and by this food, so awful and so sweet,  
deliver us from every touch of ill:  
in thine own service make us glad and free,  
and grant us never more to part with thee.

### ***The Communion***

Prayer A (page 7)

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

(Page 9)

### ***Breaking the Bread***

(Page 9, para 14)

### ***Giving of Communion***

(Page 10, para 15)

### ***Prayer after Communion***

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen  
life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### ***Hymn***

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry;

All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
I will speak My word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
If You lead me;  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them –  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone;  
I will speak My word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them –  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts are satisfied;  
I will give My life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

### ***The Dismissal***

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ.  
Amen.**

**Voluntary:** *Fugue in F major from Prelude and Fugue in F by Georg Matthias Monn*

*Please stay for refreshments in the hall*

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Giving is an important part of our worship.

Did you know, one of the easiest way to give is by using the Parish Giving Scheme?

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/>

## **NOTICES**

In the Welcome Area there is a list of all members on the Electoral Roll, there are also papers for nominating (with their permission) churchwardens and PCC members.

Our Annual Parish Meeting will follow the Morning Service on 12<sup>th</sup> May. After the meeting there will be a Soup and Snack Lunch (Soup, roll, cheese and dessert and coffee/tea) . If you would like to stay for that, please let Gill know. A donation of £5.00 would be welcomed.

On Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May WGT will be hosting a Soup 'n' Snack lunch. 12 noon – 1.15 p.m. at Castle Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Mid-week Bible Study – 10.30 am. for refreshments

All are welcome to join our study group – 10.45 – 11.45 am.

Mid-Week Prayer Space

Join us for a time of prayer as we open the church every Wednesday 12 noon – 1.00 pm.

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

5<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am. - Morning Worship led by Michael Foster

12<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am. - A short Holy Communion Service followed by our APCM

19<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am. - Morning Worship led by Clive Joyce LLM

26<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am. - Holy Communion led by Micheal Fox

Churchwardens: David Poppleton 01206 570725 and Colin Nicholson 01206 577905

Vicar: Revd Chris Smith 07458 197461