



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

Sunday 19th January 2025

Welcome and gathering worship

I shall bless the Lord at all times: his praise will ever be on my lips.
In the Lord I shall glory; the humble will hear and be glad.
Glorify the Lord with me; let us exhalt his name together.

(Psalm 34:1-3)

Hymn of praise *(tune Lobe den herren)*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen?
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him!

We prepare our hearts and confess our sins

Glorious God,

Your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are your ways our ways
You look at the ugliest soul and see, still unstirred, the wings of an
angel.

We scan the finest of our neighbours and look for the flaw.

You view time in the context of eternity and so find a place for waiting,
for yearning, even for suffering, for dying

We demand instant results, and look for tomorrow before savouring today

You know that only one who suffers can ultimately save, that is why
you walk the way of the cross

We fear that vulnerability which defies our power; that is why we allow for crucifixion

Your thoughts are not our thoughts

Neither are your ways our ways

And yet we know that your way is the ladder to heaven, while left to
our own devices our ways slope downwards towards hell
But we are here not to have our worst confirmed but to have our best
liberated

So we pray:

Forgive in us what has gone wrong, repair in us what is wasted, reveal in us what is good.

And nourish us with better food than we could ever purchase: your
word, your love, your inspiration, your daily bread for our life's
journey, in the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Collect prayer for today

**Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with your
whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and
made known in Jesus Christ our Lord Amen**

Hymn

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgement given.

There's a welcome for the sinner
And more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Saviour
There is healing in his blood.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed.
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's Word,
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.
Pining souls! come nearer Jesus,
And oh! come not doubting thus.
But with faith that trusts more bravely
His huge tenderness for us.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
It is something more than all;
Greater good because of evil,
Larger mercy through the fall.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;

And our lives would all be sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

New Testament Reading | Corinthians 12:1-11 read by Idowu Afinowi

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

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

Responsive Psalm – Psalm 8

Lord our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name.
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants declares your strength, your power to halt the enemy and avenger.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

I see your handiwork in the heavens: the moon and the stars you set in place.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

What is humankind that you remember them, the human race that you care for them?

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

You treat them like gods, dressing them in glory and splendour.
You give them charge of the earth, laying all at their feet: cattle and sheep, wild beasts, birds of the sky, fish of the sea, every swimming creature.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Lord our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Gospel Reading John 2:1-11 *read by Idowu Afinowi*

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

⁴ 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'

⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Sermon

Hymn (tune *Abbott's Leigh*)

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.

He whose Word cannot be broken
formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,
never fails from age to age.

'Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day,
daily on the manna feeding
which He gives them when they pray.

Savior, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasures,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

Let us declare our faith in God:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of intercession led by Pat French

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

The Lord's prayer

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.

Closing hymn

To God be the glory! great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son;

And give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son:
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see!

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, accompany us in this day's journey. Dawn on our darkness, open our eyes to praise you for your creation and to see the work you set before us today. Take us and use us to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

Amen.

Today's voluntary is *March from the Occasional Oratorio by Handel*

Please stay for refreshments in the hall (at the end of the corridor)

NOTICES

Mary Tayler's funeral will take place on Friday, 24th January at 2.00pm here in church and afterwards in the church hall.

The Minutes of the Jan. PCC meeting are on the notice board in the Welcome Area

Bible Study Group - Wednesdays, 10:30am-12:00pm.

Whether you're a regular or a complete beginner, we'd love to welcome you to join us as we study God's Word together, beginning with refreshments.

Midday Prayer Space - There will be no Midday Prayer Space this week. The next Midday Prayer Space will be on Wednesday 5th February.

We hope to see you there from 12-1pm for an open hour of quiet refreshment in God's presence.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

26th January at 10.30 am - Holy communion led by Ven. Michael Fox
2nd February at 10.30 am - Morning Worship led by Revd. Chris Smith
9th February at 10.30 am - Holy Communion led by Revd. Chris Smith

Churchwardens: David Poppleton 01206 570725 and Colin Nicholson 01206 577905

Vicar: Revd Chris Smith 07458 197461