



## Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**

### **Welcome**

#### **The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace  
From God our Father  
And the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you**

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

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the Head and corner-stone,  
Chosen of the Lord, and precious  
Binding all the church in one,  
Holy Zion's help for ever,  
And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,  
Dearly loved of God on high,  
In exultant jubilation  
Pours perpetual melody,  
God the One in Three adoring  
In glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,  
Come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;  
With thy wonted loving-kindness  
Hear thy servants as they pray,  
And thy fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
What they ask of thee to gain,  
What they gain from thee for ever

With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in thy glory  
Evermore with thee to reign.

### ***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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. 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**

**Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.**

### **Reading – Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25** read by Phillip Elwell

<sup>4</sup>This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, <sup>6</sup> but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup> Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’

<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’

<sup>19</sup> Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he

would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called "woman", for she was taken out of man.'

<sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

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

**Gospel Reading – Luke 8.22-25** read by Phillip Elwell

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> One day Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and set out. <sup>23</sup> As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

<sup>24</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!'

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. <sup>25</sup> 'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true and only Light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shade of night;

Day-spring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by Thee;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till Thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more Thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

### ***The Creed***

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from  
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one  
Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered  
death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in  
accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is  
seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who  
proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and  
the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through  
the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the  
world to come. Amen.**

**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**

Jesus, good above all other,  
gentle child of gentle mother,  
in a stable born our brother,  
give us grace to persevere.  
Jesus, cradled in a manger,  
for us facing every danger,  
living as a homeless stranger,  
make we thee our King most dear.

Jesus, for thy people dying,  
risen Master, death defying,  
Lord in heaven, thy grace supplying,  
keep us to thy presence near.

Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,  
all our thoughts and hopes thou sharest,  
thou to us the truth declarest;  
help us all thy truth to hear.

Lord, in all our doings guide us;  
pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;  
we'll go on with thee beside us,  
and with joy we'll persevere.

### **The Communion**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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**

## ***Breaking the Bread***

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ; **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

## ***Giving of Communion***

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## ***Prayer after Communion***

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

## ***Hymn***

Christ is the world's true light,  
its Captain of salvation,  
the Daystar shining bright  
to every man and nation;  
new life, new hope awakes,  
where'er men own his sway:  
freedom her bondage breaks,  
and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,  
their ancient feuds forgetting,  
the whole round world complete,  
from sunrise to its setting:



when Christ is throned as Lord,  
men shall forsake their fear,  
to plough-share beat the sword,  
to pruning hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name  
unite us all who own thee;  
cast out our pride and shame  
that hinder to enthrone thee;  
the world has waited long,  
has travailed long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong,  
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

### ***The Dismissal***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.**

### ***Closing Voluntary*** – Charpentier Te Deum Prelude

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

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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**

The Minutes of the February PCC meeting are on the notice board in the Welcome area.

**Pancake Party** – We have been invited to join Castle for their Pancake Party to be held in the lounge at Castle on Shrove Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon. This is always an enjoyable event so please support it. It is to be held in aid of St Helena Hospice.

**Lent Course 2025** – During Lent we will be offering a book of daily reflections called 'Living Hope'. Copies of the book (for adults and children) will be available to collect from church. If you would like to have a space to discuss and reflect on the study with others, our midweek bible study group will be running the 'Living Hope' Group Study from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – all are welcome to attend on Wednesdays from 10.30am.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> March**. We hope to see you there from 12-1pm for an open hour of quiet refreshment in God's presence

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10.30 am – Morning Worship led by LLM Sara Humphreys
- 5<sup>th</sup> March – Midday Holy Communion and Ashing led by Revd Chris Smith
- 9<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 am – Holy Communion led by Revd Chris Smith
- 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 am – Morning Worship led by LLM Clive Joyce

Churchwardens: David Poppleton 01206 570725 and Colin Nicholson 01206 577905  
Vicar: Revd Chris Smith 07458 197461