



Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

Sunday 4th May 2025

We gather to worship

The Lord is here; **His Spirit is with us**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy 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 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 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.

A time of confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We keep a short time of quiet reflection

Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

Recollection of forgiveness

May God our Heavenly Father forgive us and free us from our sins, mend and heal us and draw us to his side. In Jesus name we pray, **Amen.**

Hymn

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can, O Death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
Thou, O Grave, canst not enthrall us; Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal; Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! for us He died;
Then alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving; Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! our hearts know well
Naught from us His love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell
Tear us from His keeping ever; Hallelujah!

Jesus lives! to Him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where he is gone,
Rest and reign with Him in heaven; Hallelujah!

Psalm 30

SOUTH: I will exalt you, Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

NORTH: ² **Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.**

³ You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

⁴ **Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.**

⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

⁶ **When I felt secure, I said, ‘I shall never be shaken.’**

⁷ Lord, when you favoured me, you made my royal mountain stand firm;
but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

⁸ **To you, Lord, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy:**

⁹ ‘What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?’

¹⁰ **Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me; Lord, be my help.’**

¹¹ You turned my mourning into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
¹² **that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.**
Lord my God, I will praise you for ever.

ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading - Acts 9:1-6: Saul’s conversion *read by David Branson*

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’

‘Who are you, Lord?’ Saul asked.

‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. ‘Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Gospel reading - John 21:1-19 *read by David Branson*

Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?'

'No,' they answered.

He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred metres. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to

them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.' The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, 'Follow me!'

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee!

Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place;
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

We declare our faith

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 and 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*, including the Collect of the Day led by David Poppleton**
**Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.**

and ending with 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.**

Hymn

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

The Lord of life is ris'n today;
bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Praise we in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Thy name we bless O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord,
The life laid down, the life restored:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Closing Prayer and Blessing

**Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who have heard your word reflect his life in word and
deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Today's voluntary is Trumpet Voluntary by Jeremiah Clarke

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

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

Our Annual Church Meeting will be held after the morning service next Sunday, 11th May. Please make an effort to attend. It is your chance to hear and voice about church affairs. This will be followed by a Soup and Snack lunch for a small donation. If you wish to stay for that, please let Gill Poppleton know TODAY.

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.

There will be no Midday Prayer Space this week. The next Midday Prayer Space will be on **Wednesday 14th May**. We hope to see you there from 12-1pm for an open hour of quiet refreshment in God's presence.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

11th May at 10.30am - Holy Communion led by Revd. Chris Smith followed by the APCM

18th May at 10.30am - Morning Worship led by LLM Clive Joyce

25th May at 10.30am - Holy Communion led by Ven. Michael Fox

1st June at 10.30am - Morning Worship led by Michael Foster

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

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