



# Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## **Gathering**

We are God's people. How good it is that we have all come – all identities, different ages – to worship God who creates us; How good it is that we are gathered to meet Jesus Christ – God's living word; How good it is that we seek together signs of the Holy Spirit, whom we cannot catch or subdue. Come, let us worship God.

**O God, we have come together to turn to you, as your people have gathered before. With Christians over the centuries and across the world, with all your people of all places and times, we have come.**

**We bring with us everything we are, all our gifts and talents, all that we do well and for good.**

**We bring our weakness and our sorrow and every way in which we fail.**

**We come in the hope and expectation that we shall find you here in this company of people, as the scriptures are read and interpreted, and as the music and the words touch our spirits.**

**Hymn** Come, see the Lord (*Tune: Epiphany*)

Come, see the Lord in His breathtaking splendour:

Gaze at His majesty - bow and adore!

Enter His presence with wonder and worship -

He is the King and enthroned evermore.

He is the Word who was sent by the Father,

Born as a baby, a child of our race:

God here among us, revealed as a servant,

Walking the pathway of truth and of grace.

He is the Lamb who was slain to redeem us -

There at the cross His appearance was marred;

Though He emerged from the grave as the victor,

Still from the nails and the spear He is scarred.

He is the Lord who ascended in triumph -  
Ever the sound of His praises shall ring!  
Hail Him the First and the Last, the Almighty:  
Jesus, our Prophet, our Priest and our King.

Come, see the Lord in His breathtaking splendour:  
Gaze at His majesty - bow and adore!  
Come and acknowledge Him Saviour and Sovereign:  
Jesus our King is enthroned evermore.

***We say sorry***

God the Creator, **we praise you.**  
God in Christ, **we turn to you.**  
God the Comforter, **we call upon you.**

*A moment of silence*

**We pray that as we learn to follow Jesus, your Son, we may be saved from all that harms us, that we may become the people you made us to be and that we may find strength to do good in the world so that your will may be done:**

**We have not always lived in the ways of your commandments. For this we are sorry and we turn to you for forgiveness. We have not loved you wholeheartedly. We have failed in love to our neighbours and ourselves. We have not loved our enemies or blessed those who do us harm. We live in relative comfort within an unjust world, where many are hungry, and there is little peace. Lord have mercy upon us.**

***We remain seated as we sing*** Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (*Tune: Repton*)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
in purer lives Thy service find,  
in deeper rev'rence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,

let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!

**Old Testament Reading**, Exodus 24:12-18 *read by Alan Grimsey*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.'

Then Moses set out with Joshua his assistant, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the elders, 'Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.'

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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

**Psalm 99:5-9** *said by all*

**Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.**

**Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the Lord and he answered them.**

**He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.**

**Lord our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds.**

**Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.**

**Glory 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.**

**Hymn** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty (*Tune: Nicaea*)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.

Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,

Who was and is and evermore shall be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,

Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,

Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

**New Testament Reading**, Matthew 17:1-9 *read by Alan Grimsey*

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to

be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!’ When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. ‘Get up,’ he said. ‘Don’t be afraid.’ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, ‘Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

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

**The reaction of the Disciples** - A sonnet by Michael Guite, *read by*

For that one moment, ‘in and out of time’,  
On that one mountain where all moments meet,  
The daily veil that covers the sublime  
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.  
There were no angels full of eyes and wings  
Just living glory full of truth and grace.  
The Love that dances at the heart of things  
Shone out upon us from a human face  
And to that light the light in us leaped up,  
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,  
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope  
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.  
Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar  
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.

### **Sermon**

**Hymn** Spirit of God, unseen as the wind (*Tune: Skye Boat Song*)

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
gentle as is the dove:  
teach us the truth and help us believe,  
show us the Saviour's love!*

You spoke to us - long, long ago -  
gave us the written word;  
we read it still, needing its truth,  
through it God's voice is heard.

*Spirit of God .....*

Without your help we fail our Lord,  
we cannot live his way;  
we need your power, we need your strength,  
following Christ each day.

*Spirit of God .....*

***We confirm our faith***

**We believe in God who created us, who loves us and makes us whole.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, whose death and resurrection is our salvation and our example.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit of God who calls us to abundant life. Amen.**

***Intercessions, led by Pat French***

*including The Church's Prayer for Today:*

**Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*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*** Go forth and tell (*Tune: Woodlands*)

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take;  
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,  
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call:  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;  
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:  
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,  
a love like yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
share God's good gifts let no one be denied;  
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!  
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore

### **Sending Out**

Wherever you call us, Lord: **we want to be ready and willing to go.**  
Whenever you need us, Lord: **we want to be available and attentive.**  
Whoever turns out to be our neighbour in need: **we want to be happy  
to serve, without exceptions.**

Live within us, Lord: **so that we notice with your discernment,  
respond with your compassion, and speak with your integrity.**  
In our lives and in our world: **let your kingdom come. Amen.**

Blessing

**Closing Voluntary:** Va, pensiero from Nabucco by Verdi

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

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## GIVING

Giving is an important part of our worship.

One of the easiest way to give is by using the Parish Giving Scheme?  
[www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/colchester-st-botolph-colchester/)

And if you pay tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

## SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING

St Botolph's is a public space. Please note that CCTV operates throughout the building, and we kindly ask that you do not leave your valuables unattended.

### **Do you have a concern about a child or an adult at risk?**

You can report your concern to the St Botolph's Safeguarding Team:  
01206 542307- sarahtruder@gmail.com

Or you can report your concern to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team  
01245 294444 - safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

If you believe a child or adult is in immediate danger, please call the emergency services on 999 right away.

## NOTICES



### **Midday Prayer**

Ash Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February

🕒 12:00 pm – 1pm



*All are warmly welcome!*



Tomorrow, Monday 16th February at 2.30pm. WGT meets at ~Castle for a talk by Liz White on the Transportation of Colchester Convicts. All are Welcome

Don't forget - Pancake Party this Tuesday, 17th February Castle Methodist have invited us to join them for their Pancake Party at 12 noon. Donations will go to St. Helena Hospice.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

18<sup>th</sup> February at 12.00pm – Ash Wednesday Communion

22<sup>nd</sup> February at 10.30am – Holy Communion led by Michael Fox

1<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am – Morning Worship led by Chris & Emma Smith

[www.stbotolphs.org](http://www.stbotolphs.org)

**01206 542307**