



# Welcome to St Botolph's Church

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

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

## Welcome

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you **and also with you.**

## Hymn

Fill thou, my life, O Lord my God,  
In every part with praise,  
That my whole being may proclaim  
Thy being and Thy ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone,  
Nor e'en the praising heart  
I ask, but for a life made up  
Of praise in every part:

Praise in the common things of life,  
Its goings out and in;  
Praise in each duty and each deed,  
However small and mean.

Fill every part of me with praise;  
Let all my being speak  
Of Thee and of Thy love, O Lord,  
Poor though I be and weak.

So shall Thou, gracious Lord, from me  
Receive the glory due;  
And so shall I begin on earth  
The song forever new.

So shall no part of day or night  
From sacredness be free;  
But all my life, in every step,  
Be fellowship with Thee.

## **Prayer of Preparation**

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.

## **We say sorry to God and one another**

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **We are forgiven**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Gloria (please stand if you are able)**

**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**

**Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word, and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord**

## **First Reading Nehemiah 8:1-4, 8-12 – read by Alan Grimsey**

<sup>1</sup> all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

<sup>2</sup> So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. <sup>3</sup> He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

<sup>4</sup> Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

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

### Hymn

You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God rules in the height, almighty to save;  
though hid from our sight, his presence we have;  
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"  
let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;  
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his right:  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing with angels above  
and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

### The New Testament Reading – Colossians 3:12-17 *read by Alan*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

## **Sermon**

### **We declare our faith in God**

**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 Nicky Phillips

## **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**

From heav'n you came,  
Helpless babe,  
Entered our world,  
Your glory veiled;  
Not to be served  
But to serve,  
And give Your life  
That we might live.

This is our God,  
The Servant King,  
He calls us now  
To follow Him,  
To bring our lives  
As a daily offering  
Of worship to  
The Servant King.

There in the garden  
Of tears,  
My heavy load  
He chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow  
Was torn,  
'Yet not My will  
But Yours,' He said.

Come see His hands  
And His feet,  
The scars that speak  
Of sacrifice;  
Hands that flung stars  
Into space  
To cruel nails  
Surrendered.

So let us learn  
How to serve,  
And in our lives  
Enthroned Him;  
Each other's needs  
To prefer,  
For it is Christ  
We're serving.

## **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.**

By the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **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**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people. **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**God of all grace, Your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness**

**sustain us by your true and living bread; Who is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. Amen**

**Hymn.**

God is working his purpose out ,  
As year succeeds to year;  
God is working His purpose out,  
And the time is drawing near;  
Nearer and nearer draws the time,  
The time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled  
With the glory of God,  
As the waters cover the sea.

From utmost East to utmost West,  
Where'er man's foot hath trod,  
By the mouth of many messengers  
Goes forth the voice of God;  
Give ear to Me, ye continents,  
Ye isles, give ear to Me,  
That the earth may be filled  
With the glory of God,  
As the waters cover the sea.

March we forth in the strength of God  
With the banner of Christ unfurled,  
That the light of the glorious gospel of truth  
May shine throughout the world:  
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,  
To set their captives free,  
That the earth may be filled  
With the glory of God,  
As the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth,  
Unless God blesses the deed;  
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide  
Till God gives life to the seed;  
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time,  
The time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled

With the glory of God,  
As the waters cover the sea.

### **Blessing**

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and the love of God and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you and all those you love, in time and in eternity. **Amen.**

### **Closing Voluntary:** Postlude by Franck

*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](mailto:sarahtruder@gmail.com)

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



### **Mid-Week Bible Study**

Our Wednesday groups take a break this week for half term. Bible study will restart on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am.



*All are warmly welcome!*



### **Let's Deck the Halls!**



Join us on **Wednesday 2nd December, 9:30am–2pm** as we get the church looking festive and fabulous!

Whether you can spare an hour or stay for the day, we'd love your help.  
Many hands make light (and merry!) work!

## SUNDAY SERVICES

1<sup>st</sup> November at 10.30am - All Saints' Morning Worship

8<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am - Holy Communion and Remembrance

15<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am - Morning Worship

## STAY IN TOUCH

Visit our website or call the parish office for more information

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

**01206 542307**