



Service Sheet

10th July 2022, 10.30am St Mary's
The Fourth Sunday of Trinity
Made for Relationships: Marriage

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website (www.denhamparish.church) or Facebook page (facebook.com/denhamparish.church).

WELCOME

HYMN

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with
 thine own ardour glowing:
O comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
 to dust and ashes
 in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become
 mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings
 weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass
 the pow'r of human telling;
nor can we guess its grace,
til we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit
 makes his dwelling.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

CONFESSION

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

COLLECT

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SONG

With me God is with me
Yes He's with me every step
With me God is with me
Yes He's with me every step
And I know God is with me every step I go
Yes I know God is with me every step

With you God is with you
Yes He's with you every step
With you God is with you
Yes He's with you every step
And I know God is with me every step I go
Yes I know God is with you every step

*And oh the love of God is with me every day
Every step I take
He will lead me on into his perfect plan
Walking hand in hand*

With us God is with us
Yes He's with us every step
With us God is with us
Yes He's with us every step
And I know God is with me every step I go
Yes I know God is with us every step

(Children leave for Sunday Club)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BANNS

FIRST READING: Eph 5.25-33

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way,

husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Mark 10.2-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

THE CREED

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

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

THE PEACE

Jesus said: 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.' The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

SONG

My hope is built on nothing less

Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
(REPEAT)

*Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

OFFERTORY

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty; for everything
in heaven and on earth is yours.
**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he 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:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
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.

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. Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: 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.

All: Amen.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

At present we receive Holy Communion in one kind (bread) only.

Please follow the directions of our sidesteam. There is no one-way system anymore. Please return to your seat through the middle aisle.

If you'd like to receive a blessing, please keep your hands at your sides as you come forward.

If you'd like to receive Holy Communion seated in the pew, please let a member of our sidesteam know.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

The Church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation,
by water and the word;
from heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride,
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

THE BLESSING

May the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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An excerpt from *Loveology* by John Mark Comer (shortened)

There is a bent in all of us to turn gifts into gods. After all, we're hard-wired for worship. Religious people worship and so do agnostics and atheists. We all make something ultimate. We all make sacrifices. Every one of us gives our life away to something or someone greater than ourselves. The novelist David Foster Wallace, a few years before he committed suicide, said, "Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship." We were made to worship God, but sin bends us in the direction of idolatry. We have a slant to take God's gifts and make them into wannabe gods.

Sex is no exception. In Romans, Paul writes, "God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator." (Romans 1.24-25)

Paul's first example of idolatry is sex. That's telling.

In Paul's day, the goddess of sexuality was called Aphrodite. We have writings from the ancient Greeks saying the temple in Ephesus was stacked with one thousand temple prostitutes.

Aphrodite is alive and well.

Today she's the CEO of a multibillion dollar global industry. Entertainment, television, marketing, porn, strip clubs, fashion, cosmetics, health, fitness, plastic surgery, Botox, Viagra - her temple is ubiquitous.

And she's not easy to please. She demands we make sacrifices. We have to give up our innocence, our purity, often our body's wellbeing, and, of course, our freedom. Because when we turn sex into a god, it becomes a cruel tyrant. What is supposed to function as a gift for us to enjoy becomes an addiction with a strange, otherworldly power over us.

That's one of the crazy things about my generation. More than any other in the history of the world, this generation values the freedom of the individual. The sexual revolution of the 1960s made sexual freedom a "right," and "keep your laws off my body" is the mantra of the day.

We're just now learning that what looks like freedom is actually slavery.

We like to define freedom as the ability to do whatever we want, whenever we want, with whomever we want. But to Jesus, that's not freedom that's slavery! Freedom, at least in Jesus' mind, is the ability to do whatever you should. To enjoy the world as God intended. To live fully awake and alive.

That's why the message about Jesus is good news.

Because Jesus is king, not Aphrodite.



WHAT I'VE LEARNED DURING COVID...

What have you learned over the last years about God, faith, life, relationships or church? Christoph would love to hear from you! Email him at rector@denhamparish.church, call him or arrange a cup of tea with him.

Weekly Diary

TODAY, 3-5pm

Vestry Teas

MONDAY 11th, 8pm

The Well Prayer Gathering at St Mark's

TUES 12th, 8pm

Baptism preparation at St Mary's Vestry

SUN 17th JULY

9am - Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.30am - Morning Service at St Mary's

3-5pm - Vestry Teas

Let's pray together ...

- For conflicts and wars around the world and those working for peace. For generosity in welcoming refugees.
- For God's healing in relationships.
- For couples preparing for marriage. For married couples that they will be strengthened by the daily experience of God's faithful love for them.
- For wisdom, grace and perseverance for parents and carers.
- For the families and friends who have lost loved ones.

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ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Made For Relationships

26 June: Friendship | 3 July: Parents | 10 July: Marriage | 17 July: Singleness
24 July: Grandparents, Godparents, Mentors | 31 July: The Greatest Love

From Sunday 26 June @ 10.30 am

www.denhamparish.church

youtube.com/DenhamParishChurch

