

**St Matthew's – Holy Communion  
10.45am 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Service Leader: Rev Jim Trood**

**Preacher: Ben Butterfield**

**Women in the Messianic Line: Tamar**

**Welcome to St Matthew's.** Please join us for tea or coffee after this service. Children leave for Children's Church after the All Together song, returning at midday.

Please place any financial gifts in the bags which will be passed around during our offertory song. If you prefer you may use the contactless machine at the back of church or donate via the church website.

**Welcome and Notices**

**Opening Words**

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**Help us to pray to you in faith,  
to sing your praise with gratitude,  
and to listen to your word with eagerness;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Song



**Come let us worship our King**

Come let us bow at His feet

He has done great things

See what our Saviour has done

See how His love overcomes

He has done great things

He has done great things

Oh, hero of Heaven,

You conquer the grave

You free every captive

and break every chain

Oh God, You have done great things

We dance in Your freedom,  
awakened to life

Oh Jesus, our Saviour,

Your name lifted high

Oh God, You have done great things

You've been faithful through every storm

You'll be faithful forevermore

You have done great things

And I know You will do it again

For Your promise is "Yes and amen"

You will do great things

God, You do great things

### *Bridge*

Hallelujah God, above it all

Hallelujah God, unshakable

Hallelujah, You have done great things

Hallelujah God, above it all

Hallelujah God, unshakable

Hallelujah, You have done great things

You've done great things

## **Saying Sorry (Confession)**

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have wandered and strayed from your ways  
like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires  
of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things  
that we ought to have done;

and we have done those things  
that we ought not to have done;

and there is no health in us.

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.

Spare those who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises declared to mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.



## **Forgiveness (Absolution)**

May the Father forgive us  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days.

Amen.



## **All Together Talk**

## All Together Song

### Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Most High  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Most High



The name of the Lord is a strong tower  
The righteous run into it and they are saved  
The name of the Lord is a strong tower  
The righteous run into it and they are saved

Glory to the name of the Lord  
Glory to the name of the Lord  
Glory to the name of the Lord Most High  
Glory to the name of the Lord  
Glory to the name of the Lord  
Glory to the name of the Lord Most High

***Children leave for their groups.***

## Intercessions (Jimm Rennie)

*These responses may be used*  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**



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



## Collect

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, **Amen.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Bible Reading: Mark 7:25-30 p.100** (Millie Barkley)



*[at the beginning]*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> As soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup> 'First let the children eat all they want,' he told her, 'for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.'

<sup>28</sup> 'Lord,' she replied, 'even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.'

<sup>29</sup> Then he told her, 'For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.'

<sup>30</sup> She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

*[at the end]*

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Bible Reading: Genesis 38:11-27 p.42** (Elaine Brookes)



<sup>11</sup> Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, 'Live as a widow in your father's household until my son Shelah grows up.' For he thought, 'He may die too, just like his brothers.' So Tamar went to live in her father's household.

<sup>12</sup> After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him.

<sup>13</sup> When Tamar was told, 'Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep,' <sup>14</sup> she took off her widow's clothes, covered herself with a veil to disguise herself, and then sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that, though Shelah had now grown up, she had not been given to him as his wife.

<sup>15</sup> When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. <sup>16</sup> Not realising that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the roadside and said, 'Come now, let me sleep with you.'

‘And what will you give me to sleep with you?’ she asked.

<sup>17</sup> ‘I’ll send you a young goat from my flock,’ he said.

‘Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?’ she asked.

<sup>18</sup> He said, ‘What pledge should I give you?’

‘Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand,’ she answered. So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him. <sup>19</sup> After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow’s clothes again.

<sup>20</sup> Meanwhile Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get his pledge back from the woman, but he did not find her. <sup>21</sup> He asked the men who lived there, ‘Where is the shrine-prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?’

‘There hasn’t been any shrine-prostitute here,’ they said.

<sup>22</sup> So he went back to Judah and said, ‘I didn’t find her. Besides, the men who lived there said, “There hasn’t been any shrine-prostitute here.”’

<sup>23</sup> Then Judah said, ‘Let her keep what she has, or we will become a laughing-stock. After all, I did send her this young goat, but you didn’t find her.’

<sup>24</sup> About three months later Judah was told, ‘Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.’

Judah said, ‘Bring her out and let her be burned to death!’

<sup>25</sup> As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. ‘I am pregnant by the man who owns these,’ she said. And she added, ‘See if you recognise whose seal and cord and staff these are.’

<sup>26</sup> Judah recognised them and said, ‘She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn’t give her to my son Shelah.’ And he did not sleep with her again.

<sup>27</sup> When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.

*[at the end]*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** (Ben Butterfield)



## **Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **Response/Offertory Songs**

**You unravel me with a melody**

You surround me with a song  
Of deliverance from my enemies  
'Til all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb  
You have chosen me  
Love has called my name  
I've been born again to my family  
Your blood flows through my veins

### *Bridge*

You split the sea  
So I could walk right through it  
My fears are drowned in perfect love  
You rescued me and I will stand and sing  
I am a child of God



**My Jesus, my Saviour,**  
Lord, there is none like you;  
all of my days, I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.



My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength,  
let every breath, all that I am,  
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
let us sing power and majesty,  
praise to the king;  
mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.

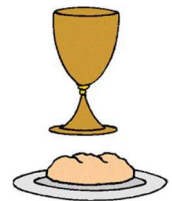
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,  
for ever I'll love you, for ever I'll stand;  
nothing compares to the promise  
I have in you.

## **Offertory Prayer**



## **Holy 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.



For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

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

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

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

Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

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

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours 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 of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## **Invitation**

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. **Amen.**

***Communion is distributed.***

***Please note – dipping the wafer in the wine is not allowed.***

***Prayer ministry is available.***

## **Songs during Communion**



### **How deep the Father's love for us**

How vast beyond all measure  
That he should give his only Son  
To make a wretch his treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns his face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen one  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross  
My sin upon his shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that is finished.

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no powers, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from his reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom.



**What a friend we have in Jesus,**  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear -  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness -  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Jesus only is our refuge,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**



## Song

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?



Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them,  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

## **Closing Words**

Jesus, lord of time,  
**hold us in your eternity.**



Jesus, image of God,  
**travel with us the life of faith.**

Jesus, friend of sinners,  
**heal the brokenness of our world.**

Jesus, lord of tomorrow,  
**draw us into your future. Amen**

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.**