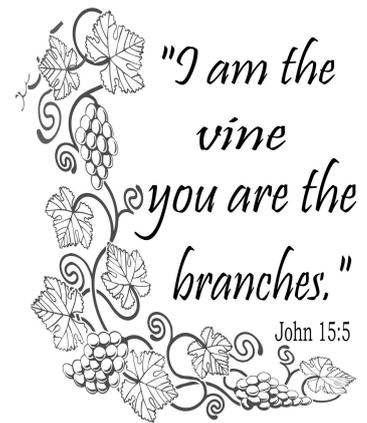


# St Gall's Church - A Service of Holy Communion

On the Fifth Sunday of Easter

2nd May 2021



Welcome & Greeting

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Hymn: 325 - Be still for the presence of the Lord

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22: 37-39

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The presiding minister pronounces the Absolution:*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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.**

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: Grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

The Epistle is written in 1 John 4: 7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was

revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love\* because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters,\* are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister\* whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn : 581 - I the Lord of sea & sky

Hear the Gospel of Christ written in the Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter, beginning to read at the first verse

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes\* to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed\* by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become\* my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon : Canon Michael Parker

The Nicene Creed

**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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.**

Our Intercessions

Reader: Lord, as you abide in us

Response: **May we abide in you**

We close our prayers as we say together:

**O God, help us to share in Christ's ministry of love and service to one another; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the unity of the Holy Spirit is one with you for ever. Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among His disciples and said, Peace be with you. Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. John 20 :19,20

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Sacrament

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;

**nourish your people with the word of life, and the bread of heaven.**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

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 our thanks and praise.**

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you. In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us. He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death, he made the perfect sacrifice for sin. Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you came to table with your friends.

Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you & for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

**dying, you destroyed our death, rising, you restored our life;**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now;

may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, 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.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has 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.**

*The presiding minister breaks the consecrated bread in preparation for the Communion*

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*A Post-Communion Prayer on the Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Eternal God, in word and sacrament we proclaim your truth in Jesus Christ and share his life. In his strength may we ever walk in his way, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.

The Easter Blessing

Rejoice, for Christ is risen, he seeks us to rise with Him. In him is our hope, in life, in death and in all eternity. Today the risen Lord comes to us with his gift of peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn: 634 - Love Divine

Dismissal

Our worship has not ended - it has only just begun - for God is with us. In every moment of every day. Go then, and offer the worship he desires - to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with him every step along our way.

**Amen.**

## Church Notices

**Next Sunday** - We look out to the wider world. We focus on Christian Aid week as it begins.

**Please remember Storehouse when you're doing your big shop** and drop a donation into the food bank collection basket on your way out. Tough times.

### Summertime on the Lawn

Could we have coffee after church? Maybe. The cunning plan....

Standing suggestion going forward - bring a wee flask with you to church on Sundays. A biscuit? Shortbread? Kitkat? Hob Nob? Tunnock's Tea Cake? Whatever you fancy.

Wine and cheese might be a bit much to start but you never know. We'll see how this goes.

Promise: If the sun is shining we shall have chairs available on the lawn beside the church after the service. A place to sit and have a social distanced chat? Reconnect with friends in the safety of the fresh air. That would be great.

### Worship on Sunday

It would be lovely to have an organist of our own. However, that is proving to be something of a challenge at the moment so we are making our own music. Our thanks for Alex for her help over the next few weeks. Question : Are you a pianist? A musician? Guitar? Flute? Some new instrument you've learned in lockdown and would love to share? Would you like to help with worship on a Sunday? Get in touch with the Rector if you'd like to help.

### Worship on Wednesday - Mid Week Holy Communion

A return to a mid week Holy Communion service is what's happening. **This week - on Wednesday 5th May - Wednesday - at 10.30 with the Reverend Jim Bates.** This service will be held in the main church to allow for ample social distancing. As a service of Holy Communion it will be held as per our previous Holy Communion services with members of the congregation bringing along their own bread and wine. Communion will be received in your own seat. That's what we're going to try to begin with. Everyone welcome!

### Christian Aid gets Ready in 2021

It's simple: take 300,000 sponsored steps across the month of May to raise vital funds for communities battling the worst of this climate crisis.

Our steps challenge clocks in at just under 10,000 steps a day and you can do the challenge alone or with a team, supporting each other to reach your goal. Whether you decide to walk, jump, skip, hop or run your steps is completely up to you!

The next step is to join our 300,000 steps in May Facebook group. You'll find lots of people who are also taking on the challenge, get access to top tips, a support network and lots of motivation. If you're not a Facebook user, don't worry, you can still join in the fun using a JustGiving page to collect in your sponsorship.



Thank you for stepping up and raising funds to support the world's poorest people.

All the info and links at the online address below.

<https://www.christianaid.ie/christian-aid-week/walk-water>

### Local Bangor West Collection in 2021 is on!

Also - would you like to be a part of a socially distanced Christian Aid door to door collection? More volunteers makes for lighter work! Put your big walk to good use! Give Claire Farmer a ring or text to offer to help with that? Claire Farmer - 077 8000 8298

**In your prayers this week please remember...**

For our government here in Northern Ireland, the UK and beyond for openness and co-operation to share truths and seek safe ways forward together for the good of all. We pray for Arlene Foster as she steps down as First Minister. We pray for those who would follow in her footsteps. We pray for all our politicians as they seek to lead and inspire our community.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer

We pray for the leaders of the church. We pray for Archbishop John McDowell as he leads our church as Primate of All Ireland. We pray for David McClay our bishop. Give wisdom & vision to all who lead the church.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer

We pray for those we know who are working in the NHS at this time, we pray for them and for their families. We pray for Sara and Emma, Kate, Stephanie, Catherine, Julie, Chris, Jackie, Rhiannon, Lydia, Fiona, David, Amanda, Anna, Maeve, Eleanor & Gail. Lord, protect and guide them.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are ill and for those who are recovering at this time. We pray for the people of India at this desperate time for them. We pray that international assistance will be swift and decisive, to help save lives.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer

We pray for the community as we emerge from lockdown restrictions . . . .

We pray for the lonely, the frightened, the anxious; those suffering from depression . . . . .

We pray for all who have lost loved ones.

We pray for the families of Edmund McIvor, Carol Gordon and Dorothy Rugman. We pray for those who are mourning and lost in grief.

We pray for those we love who are with God. We give thanks for all who have passed beyond death and rejoice in your kingdom, For all who have triumphed over sin and suffering and are now at peace. Comfort all who mourn and give them strength and peace each day.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer

