



Service of Holy Communion

Including the commissioning of Sarah Spall as an Anna Chaplain
and Pam Shaw as she is recommissioned as an Anna Chaplain

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Opening prayer

Almighty God,

You have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word, to deepen our fellowship with you and with each other through your love. And in so doing may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly, and follow more faithfully in the steps of your son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for evermore. Amen.

[prayer from Bible reading fellowship]

HYMN 2 - Christ, whose glory fills the skies.

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise!
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine!
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief
Fill me, radiancy divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!
Praise to Christ our light

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The grace of God
has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Though we have grieved him,
yet he will heal us if we confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

CONFESSION *[please sit or kneel]*

When we fail to see Christ
In friend and stranger
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the miracle of your good earth
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the secrets of our own hearts
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

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

THE GLORIA [*Please stand*]

***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.***

THE COLLECT [*PRAYER OF THE WEEK - found on the pew sheet*]

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BIBLE READINGS [*Please sit*]

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 700 - King of kings.

King of kings, Majesty
God of Heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end
All within me falls at Your throne

Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty

Earth and Heaven worship You
Love eternal, Faithful and True
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls
Brought this sinner near to Your throne
All within me cries out in praise.

Your majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty
I live to serve Your Majesty

GOSPEL READING *[Please remain standing]*

Luke 2: 36-40

Read by Sarah

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

SERMON *[Please sit]*

Sarah & Pam

Prayers of commissioning

Addressing the whole congregation:

St Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome says, 'For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.'

(Romans 12: 4-8)

People of God, Christ invites each of us to faithful discipleship and service. We are all called to different ministries as we seek to live God's love. As we commission Sarah and recommission Pam today, will you, with them, and as baptised disciples of Christ, renew your commitment to the loving service of God, of one another and of all people?

With the help of God, we will.

Sarah and Pam have been called to work as Anna Chaplains. Will you, as the people of God here in this place, support and pray for them in their ministry?

With the help of God, we will

Sarah, you have been chosen to be an Anna Chaplain. Do you believe that God is calling you to this service?

I do

Pam, you were chosen to be an Anna Chaplain in 2021. Do you believe that God is continuing to call you to this service?

I do

Sarah & Pam, will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, seek to perform it prayerfully and in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek to develop the faith, gifts and skills God has given you as you share in Christ's mission and ministry?

With the help of God, I will

Heavenly Father, send down your Holy Spirit on your servants whom you have called to this ministry. Help them to listen patiently, respond wisely and pray faithfully. Give them courage to speak up for those whose voice may not otherwise be heard.

May their hands be ready to do your work.

May their eyes be open to recognise those in need.

May their ears hear soft-spoken words of pain and sorrow.

May their voice speak of healing and peace.

May their feet walk the extra mile with those who falter, and may they always be aware of your presence guiding them and your loving protection around them in all that they do.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *[Please sit or kneel] lead by Pam*

The following 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.

Notices and time of sharing

THE PEACE [*Please stand*]

Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and Prince of Peace. Let him rule our hearts now, as one day he will rule the world.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN Bless the Lord, O my soul

Chorus: *Bless the Lord, O my soul;
O my soul, Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
it's time to sing, Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing
when the evening comes. [**Chorus**]

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep in singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. [**Chorus**]

And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come,
still my soul will sing Your praise unending;
ten thousand years and then for ever more!

Final Chorus: *Bless the Lord, O my soul;
O my soul, Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.
I'll worship Your holy name.
Yes, I'll worship Your holy name.*

Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward and the altar is prepared]

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

Amen

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER [*Please sit or kneel - The choir may remain standing*]

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.

Prayer written by Revd. Sam Wells, Vicar of St. Martin's in the Field

God of Sarah, Hagar and Deborah, at Christmas you gave us your presence, at Easter you dismantled sin and death, and at Pentecost you empowered us to bear your image and spread your grace. God of Chloe, Phoebe and Priscilla, in mission you equip us to go to the four corners of the earth and rediscover what your Spirit is doing and meet you in the face of the stranger. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

God of Ruth, Naomi and Esther, in Jesus you show us the extent of mission and the cost of ministry. Send your Holy Spirit, that your people may be filled with love, joy, and peace, and that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, 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.

God of Junia, Tryphena and Tryphosa, as you take bread and wine and make them the bearers of your Son's risen life, take our flesh and blood and make them the channels of your peace. Bless the ministry of Anna Chaplains throughout the Anglican Communion and beyond. Transform your church that it may resemble the generosity, joy, and abundance of your Trinity. God of Julia, Persis and Claudia, raise up those whose gifts have been suppressed, neglected, ignored or rejected. Renew your people through humble service and prophetic witness, that your name may be known in the face of injustice, poverty, and tyranny. God of Mary, Mary Magdalene and Elizabeth, show your glory through agents of healing and learning, and shower your people with your love, until the day comes when every eye beholds you, full of grace and truth, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, 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 forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life
And that life is the light of the world
God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life

The Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

This is the table of our lord, where hurts are healed, and all is made new in the love of God. Come not because it is I who invite you, it is our Lord; It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing, it is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front.

An anthem may be sung by the Choir and then a **HYMN** may also be sung during Communion.

HYMN 432 - Bread of the world in mercy broken.

Bread of the world in mercy broken,
wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead:
look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed,
and be thy feast to us the token
that by thy grace our souls are fed!

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 663 - How shall I sing that majesty.

How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

John Mason (c.1645–1694)

THE BLESSING

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead us also in our journey to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Or

By the power of the Spirit, we take into our community the peace and love of God.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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