

Service Sheet

6th November 2022, 10.30am, St Mary's
The Third Sunday before Advent

Hotel to Home 3. From spectator to player

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).

Christoph Lindner, Rector

WELCOME

OPENING PRAISE (from Psalm 145)

*I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends your works
to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

SONG

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
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 on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find
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 forever more*

CONFESSION

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Matthew 25. 14-30

SONG

*I am a city on a hill.
I am a light in the darkness
Jesus living in me can change the world
(x2)*

*Let my light shine let my light shine
Let my light shine
(x2)*

*If God is for me who can stand against me
Let my light shine, let my light shine
Let my light shine
(x2)*

*We are a city on a hill
We are a light in the darkness
Jesus living in us can change the world
(x2)*

(Children leave for Sunday Club)

INTERVIEW WITH KELECHI & AMARACHI MADUKA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND READING: Romans 12. 3-13

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 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.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

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

SERMON

OFFERTORY 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 enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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. Amen.

PRAYERS

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

**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**

SONG

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand

*And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now

Spirit lead me where my trust
is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet
could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour

HYMN

Hope of our calling:
hope through courage won;
By those who dared to share
all Christ had done.
Saints of today,
Christ's banner now unfurled,
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.

Hope of our calling:
hope with strength empowered,
Inspired by all that we have seen
and heard;
This call is ours, for we are chosen too,
To live for God in all we say and do.

Hope of our calling:
hope by faith made bold;
To sow God's righteousness
throughout the world;
Bring peace from conflict,
fruitfulness from weeds,
The kingdom's harvest
from a mustard seed.

Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,
Old joys remembered
and new purpose found,
Our call refreshed
by sacrament and word,
We go in peace
to love and serve the Lord.

BLESSING

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"The road to the best things is not through the good things but usually through the hard things."

Tim Keller

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Special St Mary's Christmas Cards (£1 each) are on sale after the service. Pay by cash or card.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Our service on Remembrance Sunday will start at the later time of 10.45am. Please arrive a little early as we will start promptly.

Weekly Diary

Weds 9th - Little Lions toddler group. St Mark's. Contact eddalindner18@gmail.com

Fri 11th 10.45 am. Denham Garden Village Remembrance Service.

Sat 12th 6.30 pm. Wedding Blessing. St Mary's

Sun 13th 10.45am. Remembrance Sunday Service. St Mary's

Let's pray together ...

- For those who are anxious about rising costs of food, energy, mortgages. For generosity to share our wealth equitably. For our new prime minister and his cabinet.
- For conflicts and wars in our world: For people of peace to find ways of making peace.
- For those who are unwell.
- For those who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Christine Willson.

Christine Willson's Funeral

Christine's funeral will take place at St Mary's on Tuesday 22nd November at 12.15pm. All are welcome to attend.

Nnamdi Maduka

Nnamdi was interviewed as part of Black History Month in the Diocese of Oxford.

Go to: tiny.cc/nnamdi

A short clip of his interview made it onto the ITV news:

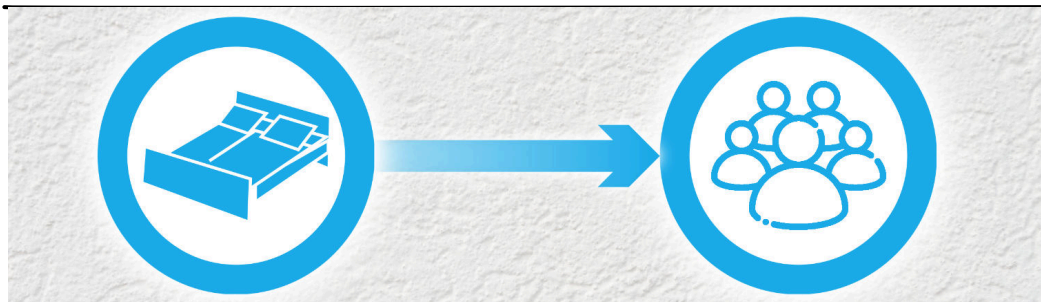
tiny.cc/BlackHistoryOxford

SIGN UP AND RECEIVE A GIFT

Sign up to email updates from Denham Parish Church and you will receive Mark Greene's beautiful, brand-new book "A Life of Grace" as a gift (while our supplies last).

IN CHURCH: Fill in the little Welcome Card in front of you in the pew and don't forget to tick the box on the back page, then hand it to a welcomer or minister.

ONLINE: Go to www.denhamparish.church/new and complete the form there.



3. From spectator to player RESPONSES

(At the end of this series we are inviting you to make responses to all three themes.)

Please take time over the next two weeks to read the booklet *Growing Hearts of Service* which is included with this order of service. Pick up a *Volunteering Catalogue* at the back of church and reflect on these questions:

(1) Is there an area of ministry at Denham Parish Church that I would like to explore more? Who can I contact to find out more?

(2) Do I have a passion to offer my gifts to a particular group of people (different ages, life situations, etc.)? How can I find out more about opportunities in that area?

(3) Do I see a need in my church? Could I offer myself to respond to that need? A "first serve" can give me a better sense of it without 'signing up for life'. (Some of our most pressing needs are listed on the back page of *Growing Hearts of Service*.)

Growing Hearts of Service and the *Volunteering Catalogue* can be downloaded at:
www.denhamparish.church/hoteltohome