



# Service Sheet

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 10.30am, St Mary's

The Book of Romans

**Freedom: How can we avoid negative cycles?**

**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](http://www.denhamparish.church)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/denhamparish.church](https://facebook.com/denhamparish.church)).

*Christoph Lindner, Rector*

## WELCOME

### HYMN

**O worship the Lord**

in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience,  
and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him:  
the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay  
thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart  
he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows,  
and answer thy prayerful,  
guiding thy steps  
as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter  
his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth  
thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty,  
and love in its tenderness,  
these are the off' rings  
to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them  
in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept  
for the name that is dear;  
morning of joy give  
for ev'nings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling  
and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience  
and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him:  
the Lord is his name.

### 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

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.

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.**

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## COLLECT

God, our light and our salvation:  
illuminate our lives, that we may see  
your goodness in the land of the living,  
and looking on your beauty may be  
changed into the likeness of Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## SONG

Father God I wonder how I managed to  
exist without the knowledge  
of Your parenthood  
And Your loving care  
But now I am Your child  
I am adopted in Your family  
And I can never be alone  
'Cause Father God You're there beside me

*I will sing Your praises  
I will sing Your praises  
I will sing Your praises forevermore  
(Repeat)*

*(Children leave for Sunday Club)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST READING: Romans 6. 1-7

What then are we to say? Should we  
continue in sin in order that grace may  
abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we  
who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do  
you not know that all of us who have  
been baptised into Christ Jesus were  
baptised into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we  
have been buried with him by baptism  
into death, so that, just as Christ was  
raised from the dead by the glory of  
the Father, so we too might walk in  
newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been  
united with him in a death like his, we  
will certainly be united with him in a  
resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that  
our old self was crucified with him so  
that the body of sin might be  
destroyed, and we might no longer be  
enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died  
is freed from sin.

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

## GOSPEL READING: John 8. 31-36

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to the Jews who had  
believed in him, 'If you continue in my  
word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and  
you will know the truth, and the truth  
will make you free.' <sup>33</sup> They answered  
him, 'We are descendants of Abraham  
and have never been slaves to anyone.  
What do you mean by saying, "You will  
be made free"?' <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered  
them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone  
who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The  
slave does not have a permanent place  
in the household; the son has a place  
there for ever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes  
you free, you will be free indeed."

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

### THE 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 from the Holy Spirit  
and 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.**

## PRAYERS

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

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with  
you. **And also with you**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

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 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.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

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.

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

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.

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:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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.

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.**

**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**

*Please follow the directions of our sidesteam. Please return to your seat through the middle aisle.*

*We take communion in both bread and wine. Please feel under no compulsion to receive the wine, though. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please make this known to the minister distributing communion.*

*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.*

#### **DURING HOLY COMMUNION:**

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father, For giving us your Son, And leaving your Spirit Til the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer. Name above all names, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory, I will see his face, And there I'll serve my King for ever, In that holy place.

#### **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**

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, my God and King!

The heav'ns are not too high, his praise may thither fly; the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, my God and King!

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, my God and King!

The Church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out; but, above all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, My God and King!

#### **BLESSING**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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#### **Let's pray together....**

- For those suffering the consequences of war, natural disasters and oppression. We pray especially for the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and in Ukraine.
- For those who have lost loved ones especially the families of Betty Mace and John Bennett.

#### **Give and Share**

The Give and Share team are starting to gather the items needed for their Christmas hampers which they distribute to those families in need for Christmas. If you are able to contribute, please pick up a flyer at the back of church to see what items are needed.

## **Don't forget....!**

**The clocks will go back next weekend, so enjoy that extra hour lie-in next Sunday!**



#### **Diary**

**SUN 29th OCT**

**9am: Holy Communion at St Mary's**

**10.30am: Sunday Service at St Mary's**

A DAY TOGETHER

Seminar for couples to invest in their relationship

Saturday, 25 November, St James  
Gerrards Cross

To find out more, please pick up a flyer at  
the back of church or go to

[adaytogether.org/events](http://adaytogether.org/events)

Harvest Gifts

Thank you so much for the Harvest  
donations. The food items have  
been delivered to our local food  
bank and we collected just over  
£500 in supermarket vouchers  
which will support people in our  
local community.

St Mary’s Festival - Thank you!

At St Mary’s Festival we raised a **total of £3,711** for our Fabric Fund (this  
includes the secret auction of glasses, raising £646).  
Our treasurer Mike Stewart writes, “An enormous THANK YOU to  
everyone who gave up their time and energy. This financial result is so  
welcome and valuable. The Fabric Fund remains in a strong and healthy  
overall position.”

Lantern Light Party at St Mary’s

Tuesday, 31 October, 5-7pm

More information and sign-up:

[www.denhamparish.church/lightparty](http://www.denhamparish.church/lightparty)



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ROMANS 7 REMINDS US THAT MORAL LAWS AND RULES CANNOT CHANGE  
US. INSTEAD, WE NEED TO LIVE OUT OUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST.



COUNT ON IT

‘In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but  
alive to God in Christ Jesus.’  
ROMANS 6.11 (NIV)



ACT ON IT

‘Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an  
instrument of wickedness, but rather offer  
yourselves to God as those who have been brought  
from death to life ...’  
ROMANS 6.13 (NIV)

## KEY VERSE FOR TODAY:

'We were therefore buried with him though baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.' Romans 6.4

## READING ROMANS

In preparation for next Sunday, read the following passages:

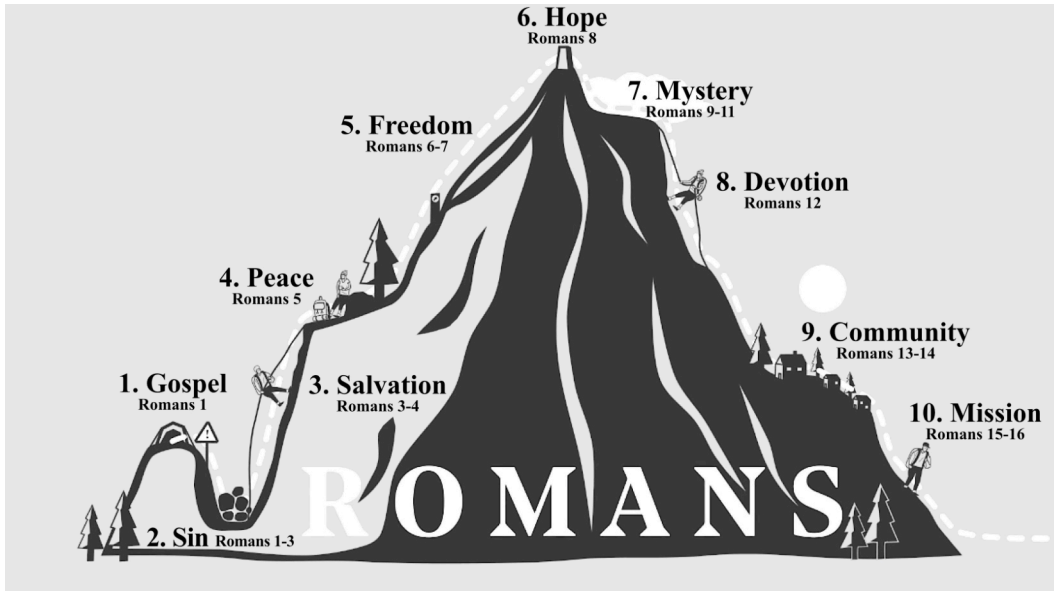
READING 1: Romans 8. 1-4

READING 2: Romans 8. 5-11

READING 3: Romans 8.12-17

READING 4: Romans 8. 18-30

READING 5: Romans 8. 31-39



Lord Jesus, we confess that we are a broken people. We confess that we easily justify our sinful and selfish actions and words. Forgive us for pretending to be better than we really are. Today we agree that we have fallen short and desperately need your grace. Thank you that we are not without hope, because you died for us on the cross, you paid the price for our wrong and you offer us all grace and freedom. You truly are the Saviour of all. We thank you for the gift of salvation in our lives.