



Service Sheet

26th November 2023 10.30am, St Mary's
**Romans: Community - How can we live
together in love? | Christ the King**

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 SCRIPTURE (Rom. 13.11-12)

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.

The night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.

HYMN

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.

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.

COLLECT

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen**

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

SONG

*God wants us to change, change, change
Into something new
He wants us to change, change, change
We will be brand new
(Repeat)*

Try and make a point
To stand out from the crowd
Fix your attention on God
And you will be changed
From the inside out
For God brings the best out of You
Every day we grow closer to our God
And who we're created to be
We can't do it ourselves
God's at work and grows
The Fruit of the Spirit in us
Metamorphing, metamorphing,
metamorphing (ooh! ooh!) [x4]
(Children leave for Sunday Club)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Romans 14. 1-9; 13-17

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we

live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹³ Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. ¹⁴I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. ¹⁵If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5. 43-48

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

⁴³You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed,
the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
God's love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross:
Our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call;
And all things cry "Glory!"
to God all in all.

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.

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

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon the throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.

All hail, Redeemer, hail!

For thou has died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

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 Elizabeth Grimes, Alastair McGhee and Ronald Barber.

Christingle Collection

Please take a Christingle collection candle from the back of church and return by 25th Dec. All proceeds gratefully received will go to the Children's Society.



GIVE AND SHARE

Helpers needed please from 6th to 15th December - *Give and Share* will be distributing Christmas hampers to needy families in the local community through local schools. 6th -8th – drivers needed to collect and transport from supermarkets to St Mark's Hall. 9th-15th – packers needed at St Mark's Hall and drivers to distribute hampers to local schools. **Please contact Dexter** dexterbrown125@gmail.com or text 07903 476535 if you can help in any way.
Please pick up a flyer at the back of church to find out what items are needed.

DIARY

Today - 2.30pm Remembering Loved Ones. St Mary's

Weds 29th Little Lions toddler group.
St Mark's. Contact: eddalindner18@gmail.com

Weds 29th Baptism Preparation
St Mary's Vestry

Sat 2nd - Forest Church Advent Special. St Mary's. SIGN UP AT:
www.denhamparish.church/forest-advent

Sunday 3rd December

9am: Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.30am: Sunday Service at St Mary's
with VISION UPDATE

3.30pm: Carols at Cafe Church
at St Mark's

(Space for your notes)



A SPECIAL ADVENT CALENDAR TO TELL A VERY SPECIAL STORY!

This *Follow The Star Advent Calendar* is a fun way for children and their families to mark Advent and celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

A great gift for families!

GET YOUR COPY FOR THE SPECIAL PRICE OF £3.00 after the service.

How to be a godly citizen in a secular society (Romans 13)

RESPECT THOSE IN AUTHORITY (ROMANS 13.1–5)

'Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.' *Romans 13.1*

CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOOD OF SOCIETY (ROMANS 13.6–10)

'Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continual debt to love one another ...' *Romans 13.8*

LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST (ROMANS 13.11–14)

'The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.' *Romans 13.12*

KEY VERSE FOR TODAY:

For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

READING ROMANS

In preparation for next Sunday, read the following passages:

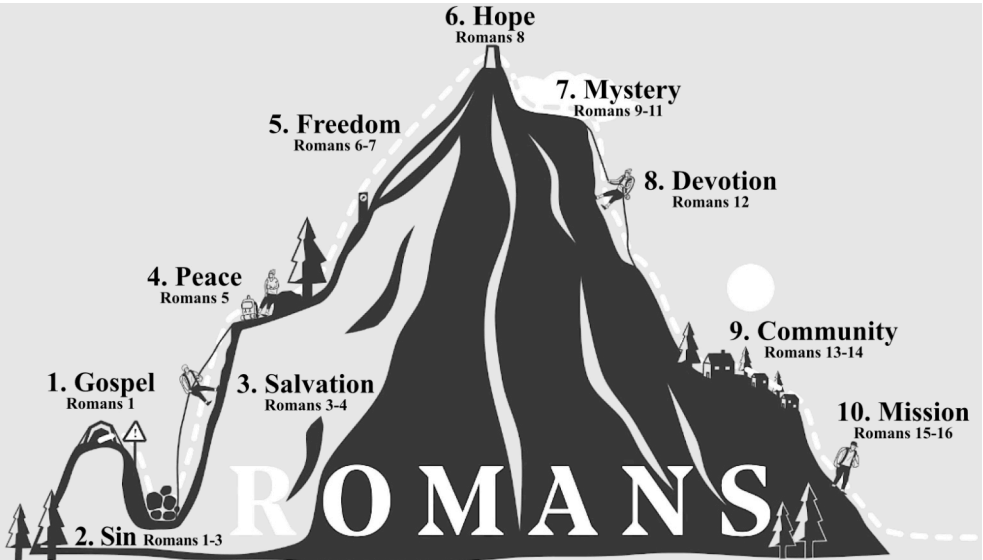
READING 1: Romans 15.1-7

READING 2: Romans 15.8-21

READING 3: Romans 15.22-33

READING 4: Romans 16.1-16

READING 5: Romans 16.17-27



FOREST CHURCH ADVENT SPECIAL

Fun for all ages
Make an Advent candle
Sign-up essential!

Saturday, 2 Dec, 4pm

St Mary's Church, Denham

Sign up: www.denhamparish.church/forest-advent

