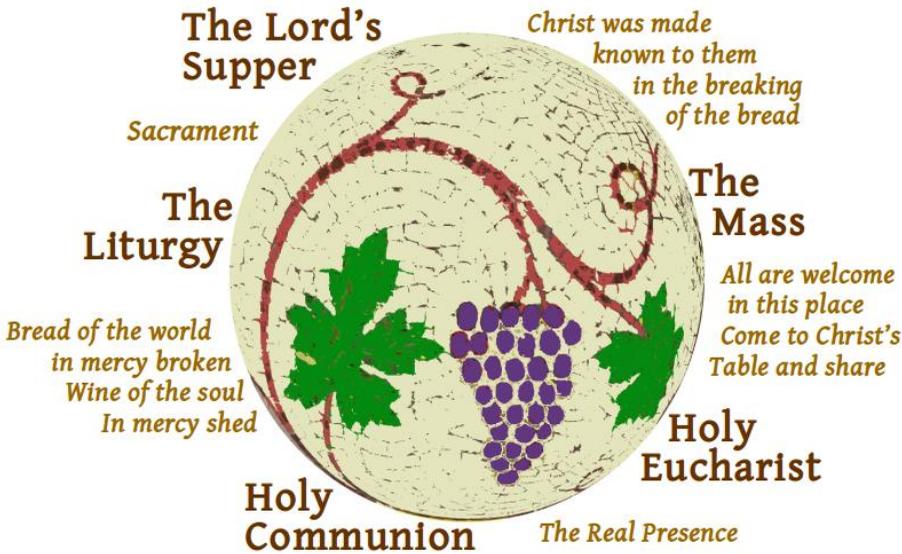


# *The Wychebrook Parishes*

*Feckenham · Stock & Bradley · Stoke Prior · Wychbold · Upton Warren*

# **Living Communion**



3rd Edition  
February 2017

## BEFORE THE SERVICE

**GLORIOUS LORD, WE GIVE YOU GREETING!**

Let church and chancel praise you,

Let earth and sky praise you.

Let plain and hillside praise you,

Let dark and daylight praise you.

Let wind and rain praise you.

Let sun, moon and stars praise you.

Sarah and Abraham, founding the Faith, praised you:

Let life everlasting praise you,

Let birds and honeybees praise you.

Let shorn stems and shoots praise you.

Miriam, Moses and Aaron praised you:

Let male and female praise you.

Let time and space praise you.

Let the books and the letters praise you,

Let the fish in the swift streams praise you.

Let thought and action praise you,

Let sand grains and earth clods praise you,

Let every good that's done praise you.

And we shall praise you, Lord of glory:

Glorious Lord, we give you greeting!

*After the Black Book of Carmarthen 13th Century*

**O CHRIST THE MASTER CARPENTER,**

who at the last, through wood and nails,

purchased our whole salvation:

wield well your tools in the workshop of this world,

so that we who come rough hewn to your bench

may here be fashioned

to a truer beauty of your hand.

We ask it for you Name's sake.

*from the Celtic tradition*

## **A PASTORAL INTRODUCTION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

*which may be used at the beginning of the service*

Dear Friends,  
beloved by God  
and sustained by his grace:  
welcome to this service of Holy Communion.

In the words and in the spaces  
may we find godly quietness  
and

in the sacrament of bread and wine  
the real presence of Christ  
to strengthen us on our journey  
and in our growing to maturity in Christ.

# *Living Communion*

## **THE GATHERING**

*Notices may be given, Banns of Marriage may be read and these or other words may be used*

In the name of the Trinity of love:

+ Creator God, Risen Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*An opening or processional hymn may be sung*

## **THE GREETING**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

**And also with you.**

*from Easter Day to Pentecost this acclamation follows*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **THE COLLECT** *for purity*

**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.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*may be said or sung in one of these or some other version. It is usually omitted in Advent and Lent*

**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.**

*or*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God almighty  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God almighty:  
Who was, and is and is to come;  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
Glory to the Lord God almighty.  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God almighty:  
Who was, and is and is to come;  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,

## THE COLLECT of the day

*At the end all respond*

**Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*At the end of each reading the reader may say*

Hear the word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

*A "Gradual" hymn may be sung*

*Stand to face the Gospel reader*

### GOSPEL READING

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### TALK / TEACHING

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*is always said on Sundays in this form or the Nicene Creed p14*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*These or other appropriate words are used*

Jesus said, 'Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn of me  
for I am gentle and lowly of heart  
and you shall find rest for your souls;  
for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

*Matthew 11.28-30*

Accepting his gracious invitation  
let us with confidence open ourselves to God  
and gladly acknowledge who we are  
that we may also gladly receive his word  
of forgiveness, love and freedom.

## CONFESSION

**Lord our God  
in our sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you  
is like the morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*cf Hosea 6*

## ABSOLUTION

*A priest uses this or another absolution*

The Most High enrich **you** with grace,  
and nourish **you** with blessing;  
the Holy One defend **you** in trouble  
and keep **you** from all evil;  
the God of Love accept **your** prayers,  
and absolve **you** + from **your** offences,  
for the sake of Christ, our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## INTERCESSION

*This or some other form is used*

You who spread your creating arms to the stars, strengthen our arms with power to intercede when we lift our hands to you.

*Armenian Liturgy*

As members of Christ's Body, we pray for the world and for the Church in the world.

For the peoples of the earth in all their sorts and conditions; gracious God make known your ways and saving health among the nations .....

For the universal Church: for **N&N** our Bishops and all people of faith that we may joyfully sow seeds of faith, hope and love and grow up into Christ .....

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us .....

For all at work .....

For all who are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body or circumstance; visit them with your health and salvation .....

Holding before you all who grieve we remember those who have died: *amongst whom we name..*

May they rest in peace  
**and rise in glory.**

In a time of stillness let us offer to God our own concerns.

*A short time of quiet is kept but we gladly hear the sounds of small children! The intercession may end with these words:*

Lord of life

**hear our prayer  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.  
Amen.**

*One of these, or some other response, may be used*

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

*or*

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

## THE PEACE

*These or other words may be used*

We are the body of Christ, forgiven, loved and free.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

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

*A minister says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## PREPARATION OF THE HOLY TABLE

*An "Offertory" hymn may be sung*

*Bread and wine and the gifts of the people may be presented, the Holy Table is prepared with these or other words*

As this bread was scattered as grain on the hillside  
and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house;  
she has mixed her wine;  
she has set her table.

**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

*During the Eucharistic Prayer we are encouraged to look at the Holy Table and the bread and wine as the priest leads the prayer rather than following the words in the booklet*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer G

### *Sursum Corda*

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.**

### *Preface*

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,  
that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

### *Sanctus*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### *Benedictus*

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### *Memorial of the Incarnation*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a  
people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be  
the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than  
death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

### *Institution Narrative*

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He 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.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: 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.

### *Acclamation: a minister says*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

### *Anamnesis*

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

### *Epiclesis*

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

### *Intercession*

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace...

Bring us at the last with *Mary the God-bearer, N and* all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us;

### *Doxology*

through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, 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.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

*With these or other words the people are invited to receive the bread and wine (or a blessing if they prefer). Parents are encouraged to bring children for a prayer of blessing*

Christ calls us to his table.  
Come to his table and share,  
whether you are strong in faith or struggling to believe,  
heavily burdened, or travelling light.  
All are welcome: come to his table and share!

*One of these or other words are used at the giving of communion, each person replying **Amen**.*

The Body of Christ.  
The Blood of Christ.

*or*

The bread of heaven in Christ Jesus.  
The cup of life in Christ Jesus.

*Hymns or anthems may be sung during the giving of communion*

## AFTER COMMUNION

**MARANATHA** (*Come, Lord*) may be said

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

*The president may say this prayer*

Gracious God, lover of all, in this sacrament we are one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood and one in the communion of his Spirit: help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ. We make our prayer through your Son our Saviour.

**Amen.**

*All may say*

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

*This or some other blessing is used*

Let God's hope be a clearing sky before you,  
a compass in your heart guiding you to where you belong;  
and the blessing of the Trinity of Love:  
+ Creator God, Risen Christ, and Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you now  
and into the fullness of eternity. **Amen.**

*A Closing or Recessional Hymn may be sung*

## DISMISSAL

*All face the minister who says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## 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 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.

## ALTERNATIVE CONFESSION

God our Father, long-suffering, full of grace and truth,  
you create us from nothing and give us life.

You give your faithful people new life  
in the water of baptism.

You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.

We confess that we have sinned  
against you and our neighbour.

We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.

Restore us for the sake of your Son,  
and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ALTERNATIVE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

## FROM THE ATHANASIAN CREED

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**fully God and fully human;  
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;

**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being  
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;  
we have seen his glory,  
the glory of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.**

## THE PRAYER OF ST RICHARD

**LORD JESUS CHRIST,**  
we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.

**Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,**  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.

*St Richard of Chichester (Richard de Wyche) was Bishop of Chichester from 1245 until he died in 1253. He was born the son of a yeoman farmer near Droitwich in 1197. His original prayer became well known in this form in the 20<sup>th</sup> century*



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