



CHURCH OF CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE

Milton Keynes

HOLY COMMUNION

ZOOM GATHERING

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023 - 6.00 pm

Welcome

—Rev Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga

Let us come together before God, our consoler in distress.
Let us come together before God, our hiding place from troubles.
Let us come together before God, whose love surrounds us.
Let us rejoice in the Lord, our comforter and refuge.

Silence

Gathering Prayer

God our stronghold and deliverer, you are the only Lord, our God, and we trust only in you. Jesus you were tempted in the wilderness, but you chose another way. You were obedient to your Father. You challenged the evil one and reign victoriously. We bow before you today and sit at your feet, worshipping only you.

Amen.

The Confession

Lord, we are sorry when we are tempted by all that the world has to offer us: the temptation to be relevant and popular; the temptation to be spectacular and successful; the temptation for power and wealth and so many things. We are sorry when we make the wrong decisions. We are sorry for the temptations that lead to addiction, corruption and ultimately hurt other people.

Forgive us, Lord.

We seek your wisdom and discernment to make better choices, to be rooted in you. We thank you that, in our weaknesses, we can be made strong; and that it is in weakness, in the desert times of our lives, that amazing things can happen.

We ask in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Bible Reading

— Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven’s song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We bless the name of Jesus, bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh whose brokenness and suffering makes love real, who on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take, eat. This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup saying, drink from this, all of you, this is my blood given for you. Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.

This is the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we acknowledge brokenness as a path to truth. We long for the bread of tomorrow: eternally broken and so able to nourish. We long for the new wine of the kingdom: continuously poured out that thirst may be quenched.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour and glory and power Be yours forever and ever. Amen.

THE 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 forever. Amen.

THE COMMUNION

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. Amen.

After Communion

Return to God with all your heart: remove the burdens of the poor, let the oppressed go free, and speak evil no more. Offer your food to the hungry and care for the afflicted, and your light will break forth like the dawn.

Amen

Silence

The Blessing

For each step that we might take

Be our guide, O Lord of life

For each load that we might bear

Be our strength, O Lord of life

For each mountain we might face

Be our power, O Lord of life

For each river that might impede

Be our safety, O Lord of life

For each place where we might rest

Be our peace, O Lord of life

For each sunrise and sunset

Be our joy, O Lord of life

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you today and always

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen