



*'A faithful,
welcoming and
compassionate
church for all.'*



'Come Lord Jesus, Come'

**A Sunday morning
Holy Communion service order
for Advent**

Welcome to St. Dunstan's this morning.

We are delighted you can be with us.

If you have come with young children, please know that the noise of children is a gift to the church, not a distraction! We want to be a church family that welcomes children (really, everyone) the way Jesus welcomes everyone.

This order of service accompanies the page of readings and prayers you were given when you arrived. You will also need a hymn book.

Coffee is served after the service and you are most welcome to stay. We might have cake too. ☺

There are toilets in Church House, which can be found by going out of the main door, down the path and turning to the left. It has a black front door. The toilets are straight ahead of you, at the far end of the main hall.

If you have any questions, please ask one of the 'welcomers' at the main door, although I am sure you will find the people around you only too pleased to help you too. ☺

Welcome, Notices and Opening Prayer

We stand as the organ begins to play.

Opening Hymn

We remain standing at the end of the hymn.

The Greeting

Grace, Mercy and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

All 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.

Please sit or kneel, as most comfortable for you.

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins. *cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

**All Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The Prayer of Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect for today *(see reading sheet)*

After the prayer is completed, please be seated.

One or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading

First Reading *(see reading sheet)*

At the end:

"This is the Word of the Lord."

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading (see reading sheet)

At the end:

“This is the Word of the Lord.”

All **Thanks be to God.**

2nd Hymn

Please stand.

We remain standing after the hymn for the Gospel reading.

The Gospel Reading (see reading sheet)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
cf Isaiah 40.3–5

All **Alleluia.**

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

All **Glory to you O Lord**

After the reading has finished:

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Apostles Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercessions

And at the end
Merciful Father,

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

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

All may exchange a sign of Peace by saying "Peace be with you."

Offertory Hymn

A voluntary offering is received during the singing of this hymn for those who wish to make one.

A card reader is by the door if you prefer to give electronically when you leave.

We remain standing after the hymn.

At the end of the hymn the offering is received and thanks are given for the bread, wine and offering.

Prayer over the gifts

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living
Word, through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be
our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on
earth and went about among us; he opened wide his
arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by
dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising
to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you
a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because when he humbled himself
to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way of salvation.
So now we watch for the day,
knowing that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

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/singing:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and
according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and
wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ; 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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

The Breaking of Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The president says one of these invitations to communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

or

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst
come under my roof, but speak the word only
and my soul shall be healed.**

or

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

This prayer may be said before the distribution

All **We do not presume to come to this your table,
merciful Lord, trusting in our own
righteousness, but in your manifold and great
mercies. We are not worthy so much as to
gather up the crumbs under your table. But
you are the same Lord whose nature is always
to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious
Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus
Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful
bodies may be made clean by his body and our
souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and
he in us. Amen.**

Giving of Communion

All who seek to faithfully follow Jesus are welcome to participate in Holy Communion.

A sides-person will let you know when it is time to go forward and receive communion.

If you would like communion but are unable to go forward, please let the sides-person know and they will arrange for it to be brought to you.

If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward, and keep your hands lowered when standing at the communion step.

While we receive communion the choir will sing and the organ will play.

The Prayer after communion (see reading sheet)

After the prayer after communion is said, we say together

All **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.**

Final Hymn

We remain standing after the hymn.

We commit ourselves and each other into the Lord's hands with the blessing.

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing ...

The Dismissal

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Please remain standing until the procession has proceeded down the aisle. Then feel free to be seated for any final, personal prayer you might wish to make.

*Thank you for your company,
we hope we will see you again soon.*

*Refreshments are served at the back of the church -
please do join us☺*



**'A faithful, welcoming
and compassionate
church for all.'**



We are on a journey here at St. Dunstan's and we would be delighted if you would like to be part of it with us. Following a lengthy process of discernment throughout 2022 and into 2023, we feel the Lord is calling us to the following vision and we focus each Sunday on what it means to grow into living this way.

Our vision is to be:

- 1. An all-inclusive, all age, larger church family (including a focus on children and young families) alive to the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever folk are on their journey through life.*
- 2. A welcoming, caring and kind Church where the community feel at home without conditions. A church with something for everyone – a community hub.*
- 3. A church that is fully integrated playing an active part in the Cranbrook community. Not a club but a church fully engaged and imparting the relevance of St Dunstan's to the wider community. This includes leading and developing programmes in the community.*
- 4. A welcoming and adaptable church able to facilitate various activities and groups as a community resource as well as a sacred space and a focus for reflection and worship. This includes an improvement in the facilities.*
- 5. A thriving church, alive with music, a strong choir, with events and activities for all ages.*