

The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



'Quiet now! Be calm!'
Jesus calms the storm.

The Parish Sunday Eucharist

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Sunday, 20th June 2021, at 10.00 a.m. at St. John's, Mortimer and
online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Prayer thoughts: Life has been described as 'a journey across the sea of time to the shores of eternity.' This journey entails encountering life's storms of sorrow, anxiety, worry, doubt, temptation and passion - physical storms, emotional storms, spiritual storms. And the way we encounter the storms of life is, ultimately, what makes or break us and can either bring us closer to God, to one another and to ourselves or alienate us from God, others and our own integrity. Part of today's Gospel message is if we spend all our lives reacting or, rather, overreacting fearfully to life's storms then we will never know the fullness of life and peace.

Of course, we don't live in a world which is full of calm and peace. We live in a world where there is war, injustice, poverty, suffering, fear and mistrust and in which societies, religions, communities and relationships are divided and fractured. The Gospel message is that, amid the turmoil of storms which threaten to sink us, we should not be overwhelmed by fear but put our faith in the strength of that prevailing goodness we see in Christ.

There is no easy answer to the mystery of suffering and the Gospel doesn't provide an answer either, but it does teach that the question in the minds of the disciples - after Jesus calmed the storm - can and perhaps should be ours today: 'Who is he?' Whether or not we come up with a satisfactory answer, we can make progress by hearing this Gospel message and by listening to the one who himself suffered, died and rose from the dead, and by finding his perspective through stormy times. This can at least be our foothold as we struggle with what seems to have no rational or adequate answer.

When Mark was writing this Gospel Christians were facing Nero's persecution - 64 AD - and Mark's simple encouraging message was have faith that Christ cares for us and our ultimate safety. Mark's simple Gospel message is that the way to move from fear and turmoil to faith and peace is to turn to Jesus for help - even when at first he may appear to be still and quiet.

Two thousand years ago there occurred on the Sea of Galilee a 'perfect storm.' It was not 'perfect' because of the clash of the elements or the strength of the winds or the height of the waves, but because that storm taught twelve disciples then, and hopefully will teach us today, how to navigate the ship of life through the stormiest of seas.

AN ARMENIAN FATHER. At about 11.40 am on 7th December 1988 the Spitak earthquake needed only four minutes to devastate the northern region of Armenia - then part of the Soviet Union - and kill 38,000 people and injure 130,000 more. Moments after the earthquake had stopped a father raced to a school to save his son. When he arrived he saw the building had been levelled. Looking at that mass of stones and rubble his heart sank. All he could do was remember again and again his promise to his little boy, 'No matter what happens, I'll always be there for you.' Driven by his love and with the words of his promise ringing in his ears he found the area closest to his son's classroom and began to pull back the rocks and dig out the dirt. Other parents arrived and began sobbing for their children. They told him: 'It's too late.' Even a police officer and other officials encouraged him to give up. But that dad refused. For eight hours, then sixteen, then thirty-two, and then thirty-six hours, he dug. His hands were raw, his energy was gone, but he refused to give up. Finally, after thirty-eight hours he pulled back a boulder and heard his son's voice. He called out his boy's name, 'Arman!' A voice answered him saying, 'Dad, it's me!' 'Hey, Dad, I told the other kids not to worry. I told them if you were alive you would save me and that when you saved me they would be saved too. Because you promised Dad, "No matter what I'll always be there for you."' Today's Gospel is a reminder to us all of that same promise to us in Christ Jesus.

PS THE EAGLE AND THE STORM. Apparently an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks and so flies to some high spot to wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below the eagle soars above it. The eagle does not escape the storm, but simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the very winds that bring the storm. The Scriptures teach that when the storms of life come we can rise above them by setting our hearts and minds on the way of God. The storms don't have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them and to ride the winds that bring sickness, tragedy, failure, and disappointment to our lives. Again, the Scriptures remind us that it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, but how we handle them: 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles' - Isaiah 40:31. God bless, Paul

The Parish Sunday Eucharist

This Holy Memorial is known by various names: 1) 'The Eucharist' - which means 'Thanksgiving' - because Jesus offered himself in love; 2) 'the Lord's Supper' - or 'Breaking of the Bread' - because we celebrate it as a shared meal; 3) 'Holy Communion,' because we become one with Christ by receiving him; and 4) 'Holy Mass' - holy sending - because it gives us a mission: to go in peace to serve the Lord.

If you are not able to come to St John's please do share in this online service from your own home. May God bless us as we join to worship together. The present rules and guidelines about attendance, distancing, singing & speaking in churches will be followed carefully.

HYMN

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
come now before him and rejoice!**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed;
he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he surely feeds,
the sheep who by his hand were made.**

THE GATHERING

Priest In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The priest may introduce the Eucharist.

THE GREETING

The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us. The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.

The Invitation to Confession.

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love,
revealed in Word and Sacrament,
let us call to mind our sins.

A pause for silent reflection follows.

All I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do.

The Absolution

+ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

All Amen.

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Father!
Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Father!
To God be glory forever!
To God be glory forever!
Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen!**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to Christ Jesus!
Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to Christ Jesus!**

To God be glory forever!
To God be glory forever!
Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen!

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Spirit!
Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to the Spirit!**
To God be glory forever!
To God be glory forever!
Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen!

THE COLLECT

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in silence, realising, and giving thanks, that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The prayer 'collects' our thoughts.

Priest Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind and all creation.

In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his 'word.' We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts'(The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).

THE FIRST READING - 2 CORINTHIANS 6: 1 - 13. - Read by Gwen Adshead

Reader A reading from Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return - I speak as to children - open wide your hearts also.

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ *Ephesians 1: 17. 18.*
enlighten the eyes of our mind, because I have made known to you
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - ST MARK'S GOSPEL 4: 35 - 41. *Jesus calms the storm.*

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you .

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and sea obey him.'

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.

After the sermon there is a short period of silent reflection.

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding self-giving love.

All We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.

We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION - led by Sarah Theaker

We are invited to pray for the needs of the Church's mission and for all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.

This Prayer of the Faithful, or General Intercession, is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities, families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; for the departed. And in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people and all creation to God's saving love.

Priest: In the power of the Holy Spirit of God, and in union with Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Father.

The deacon or minister continues:

Heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith, strengthen Justin our Archbishop, Steven our bishop, Olivia our area bishop, our benefice, our Church schools of St Mary's and St John's, and all your Church in the service of Christ, that we may live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, our Government and our District and Village Councils. Give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace that people everywhere may honour one another and seek the common good...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, Your Son shared the life of a family: in your love bless and protect our families, friends, and neighbours and help us to learn how to serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit...; give them hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have died recently ...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the fellowship of Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all your saints and we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love...

Priest Merciful Father,

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine - we take our own gifts to the Altar, such as our time and talents and our money for the poor and for ministry. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful - a sign of the unity which comes through sharing in Christ. 4) And in Holy Communion we receive Christ. In this way, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, the Church tries to carry out what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.

THE PEACE

We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another in Christ and pray for peace and unity (cf Luke 1.78,79).

Priest Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God

in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All And also with you.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The offerings of money is made and promised to support the wider ministry and work of the Church. Taking the Gifts: We give thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.

Priest **BREAD**

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.

All Blessed be God for ever.

WINE

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 for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts.

The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Priest Amen.

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we offer.

May they become for us, by your power, a source of healing and peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said by the priest on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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.

The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:

And now we give you thanks because at the Last Supper, as he sat at table with his apostles, he gave us this memorial of his passion to bring us its saving power until the end of time.

In this sacrament you feed your people and strengthen them in holiness, so that the family of humankind may come to walk together in the light of faith and in one communion of love.

**All 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 pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood. On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.’

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.’

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

All Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The communion rite lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by the love of God manifest in Christ. We can all be confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so let us pray:

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 THE BREAD

The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly: 'May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.' 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17) Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread.'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. The breaking of the Eucharistic bread becomes a sign of unity and charity as the one bread is distributed to the family of God's people.

Priest 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.**

The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both 'kinds' since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when communion can only be given in one 'kind' when we can come to church.

The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ. When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:

+ Amen.

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION

**Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**When you walk through the waters I'll be with you,
you will never have to sink beneath the waves.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**You are mine, oh my child; I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray

The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us all to God's kingdom. We pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.

Priest O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN

**O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle**

**if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**Oh, let me feel thee near me;
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**Oh, let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone.**

**Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then to rest receive me,
my saviour and my friend.**

Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. *The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently.*

