

Smethwick Old Church



Sunday Service

Opening Responses

We know you and we don't know you,
you are mysterious and full of joy.

You know us and understand us,
you are loving and full of truth.

You welcome us and you live in us,
you are holy and full of hope.

We look for you in each other,
we look for you in our midst.

(Ruth Burgess ©Wild Goose publications)

Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.
and also with you

Prayer of Preparation

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

Confession

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us open our hearts to God,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We hear God's Forgiveness

The Gloria

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.

Collect

Bible Readings

First reading

Second reading

Gospel reading

As the Gospel is announced the following words are used:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading the following words are used:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Affirmation of faith

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

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

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

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,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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

The Lord's Prayer

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 Peace

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

We offer these words of peace to those who are far off and to those who are near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

Hymn

Closing Words

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

Blessing

Closing

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
 you have exalted your only Son Jesus
 Christ
 with great triumph to your kingdom in
 heaven:
 we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
 but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
 and exalt us to the place where our Saviour
 Christ is gone before,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked
 perish at the presence of God. **R**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice
 before God;
 let them make merry with gladness.
 Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
 exalt him who rides on the clouds.
 The Lord is his name; rejoice before him. **R**

Father of the fatherless, defender of
 widows,
 God in his holy habitation!
 God gives the solitary a home
 and brings forth prisoners to songs of
 welcome,
 but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. **R**

O God, when you went forth before your
 people,
 when you marched through the wilderness,
 The earth shook and the heavens dropped
 down rain, at the presence of God, the
 Lord of Sinai,
 at the presence of God, the God of
 Israel. **R**

You sent down a gracious rain, O God;
 you refreshed your inheritance when it was
 weary.
 Your people came to dwell there;
 in your goodness, O God, you provide for
 the poor. **R**

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;
 make music in praise of the Lord;
 He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens
 and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice. **R**

Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is
 over Israel,
 whose power is above the clouds.
 How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary,
 the God of Israel, who gives power and
 strength to his people!
 Blessed be God. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)
 Either **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**
 A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery
 ordeal that is taking place among you to
 test you, as though something strange
 were happening to you. But rejoice in so
 far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
 so that you may also be glad and shout
 for joy when his glory is revealed. If you
 are reviled for the name of Christ, you are
 blessed, because the spirit of glory, which
 is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
 Humble yourselves therefore under the
 mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt
 you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on
 him, because he cares for you. Discipline
 yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion

your adversary the devil prowls around,
 looking for someone to devour. Resist him,
 steadfast in your faith, for you know that
 your brothers and sisters throughout the
 world are undergoing the same kinds of
 suffering. And after you have suffered for
 a little while, the God of all grace, who has
 called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will
 himself restore, support, strengthen, and
 establish you. To him be the power for ever
 and ever. Amen.

Or **Acts 1:6-14** (as above)

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
 "Father, the hour has come; glorify your
 Son so that the Son may glorify you, since
 you have given him authority over all
 people, to give eternal life to all whom
 you have given him. And this is eternal
 life, that they may know you, the only true
 God, and Jesus Christ whom you have
 sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing
 the work that you gave me to do. So now,
 Father, glorify me in your own presence
 with the glory that I had in your presence
 before the world existed. I have made your
 name known to those whom you gave me
 from the world. They were yours, and you
 gave them to me, and they have kept your
 word. Now they know that everything you
 have given me is from you; for the words
 that you gave to me I have given to them,
 and they have received them and know in
 truth that I came from you; and they have
 believed that you sent me. I am asking on
 their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of
 the world, but on behalf of those whom
 you gave me, because they are yours. All
 mine are yours, and yours are mine; and
 I have been glorified in them. And now I
 am no longer in the world, but they are in
 the world, and I am coming to you. Holy
 Father, protect them in your name that you
 have given me, so that they may be one,
 as we are one."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
 your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all
 the world
 to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
 confirm us in this mission,
 and help us to live the good news we
 proclaim;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)
 The reading from Acts must be used as
 either the first or second reading.

Acts 1:6-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
 When the apostles had come together,
 they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when
 you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He
 replied, "It is not for you to know the times
 or periods that the Father has set by his
 own authority. But you will receive power
 when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
 and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
 in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends
 of the earth." When he had said this, as
 they were watching, he was lifted up, and a
 cloud took him out of their sight. While he
 was going and they were gazing up towards
 heaven, suddenly two men in white robes
 stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee,
 why do you stand looking up towards
 heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up
 from you into heaven, will come in the same
 way as you saw him go into heaven." Then
 they returned to Jerusalem from the mount
 called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a
 sabbath day's journey away. When they had
 entered the city, they went to the room
 upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and
 John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and
 Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James
 son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot,
 and Judas son of James. All these were
 constantly devoting themselves to prayer,
 together with certain women, including
 Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his
 brothers.

Or **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

PSALM

Psalms 68:1-10. 32-end (or 68:1-10)
R Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Let God arise and let his enemies be
 scattered;
 let those that hate him flee before him.
 As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish
 away;

