

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# Battle of Britain Sunday



'Never in the field of human conflict  
was so much owed by so many to so few.'

Winston Spencer Churchill

**All Age Mass for the Parish Family**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

10.15 am

## ¶ Let's keep protecting each other

We're so grateful for everything you've done to help keep each other safe. Every time you've sanitised your hands, worn a face covering and kept a safe distance, it's made a real difference. So from all of us, thank you. We all hope and pray brighter days are coming. But we want to reassure you that your safety is still our top priority.

The Government guidance, endorsed by the Church of England, 'expects and recommends' that we continue to:

**Wear a face covering whilst in church** unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This should cover your nose as well as your mouth.

**Maintain physical distancing** Couples, households and former 'bubbles' may sit together. Otherwise, we ask you to respect one another's space, spread out, and avoid sitting directly behind or in front of others. As far as possible, we ask you to avoid physical contact with other people and surfaces.

**Sanitise our hands** on arrival - pick up an order of service (large print editions may be requested in advance via the parish office) - and sign in for 'Test and Trace' purposes.

**The church toilet facilities** are available for use.

**Holy Communion** will be administered in one 'kind' only, standing, at one or two 'stations' at the front of the nave. Please approach via the centre aisle and return via the side aisles. For mutual protection, we ask that you keep your face covering on until the words of administration have been spoken, and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.

If you have difficulty being mobile please let us know, sit on the end of a row, and we will come to you.

**After the service** Please depart via the main porch sanitising your hands as you leave. In fine weather, we invite you to join us for social interaction on the green at the east end.

Setting

Mass of St Thomas

Thorne

Our thanks are due to Donor SF  
who has generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.

# Order of Service

## ¶ Gathering to Worship God

*All stand at the sound of the bell*

*The procession enters from the west end*

*The flags are presented*

## The Airmen's Hymn

O ruler of the earth and sky  
Be with our airmen when thy fly;  
And keep them in thy loving care  
Amid the perils of the air.  
O let our cry come unto thee  
For those who fly o'er land and sea.

Strong Son of Man, save those who fly  
Swift-winged across th'uncharted sky;  
Each anxious hour and lonely flight,  
Serene, unchallenged, day and night.  
O'er land and ocean safely bear  
All those in peril in the air.

O Holy Spirit, God's own power  
Give peace in sudden danger's hour:  
Bring calm of heart, and be thou near  
To those who watch and those who fear.  
To thee will rise the grateful prayer  
Of those who serve thee in the air.

O Trinity of love and grace,  
True guide of all who fly through space,  
In peace or war, mid friend or foe,  
Be with them whereso'er they go.  
So shall our praise with heaven's blend  
And joyful hearts to thee ascend.

Words: The Airmen's Hymn  
anonymous

Music: Melita  
John Dykes (1823-1876)

*Priest* † In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*All*        **Amen.**

## The Greeting

*All*        Grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

## Introduction

On this Battle of Britain Sunday we give thanks to God  
for the safe deliverance of our country from threat of invasion,  
for the courage and bravery of 'The Few',  
for the Royal Air Force still serving in troubled regions  
of the world;  
and we pray that we may better follow Jesus Christ  
in the ways of peace.

## Saying Sorry to God

Let us confess to God the sins of the world;  
its selfishness and greed, its violence and hatreds.  
Let us confess our share in what is wrong,  
and our failure to seek that peace which God wills for his  
children.

*We keep silence*

## Confession

We confess that we have wallowed in pride,  
instead of mourning our sinfulness.

*All* Lord, forgive our sins,  
**as we forgive others.**

We confess that we have promoted self-interest,  
instead on hungering and thirsting for right.

*All* Lord, forgive our sins,  
**as we forgive others.**

We confess that we have harboured resentment  
instead of showing mercy.

*All* Lord, forgive our sins,  
**as we forgive others.**

We confess that we have created dissent,  
instead of acting as peacemakers.

*All* Lord, forgive our sins,  
**as we forgive others.**  
**Make us obedient to you**  
**and worthy to be known as your children,**  
**through our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

## God's Forgiveness

*Priest* Almighty God,  
who saves completely those who call on his name,  
have † mercy on you,  
forgive all your sins and failings  
and restore you to the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## Glory to God

*All* *Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.  
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.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.*

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.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.*

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.  
*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.*

## The Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

All-powerful God,  
look kindly on us your children,  
and on all who work for justice and peace.  
Help us to do our duty without fear,  
confident that in life or in death  
you are our protector and strength,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**        **Amen.**

*All sit*

## ¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

First Reading        Isaiah 40.25-31

*Reader*        A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

God, the Holy One, says, "Can you compare me to anyone?

Is anyone equal to me?"

Look up to the skies.

Who created all these stars?

He leads out all the army of heaven one by one.

He calls all the stars by name.

He is very strong and full of power.

So not one of them is missing.

People of Jacob, why do you complain?

People of Israel, why do you say,

"The Lord does not see what happens to me.

He does not care if I am treated fairly"?

Surely you know.

Surely you have heard.

The Lord is the God who lives forever.

He created all the world.  
 He does not become tired or need to rest.  
 No one can understand how great his wisdom is.  
 The Lord gives strength to those who are tired.  
 He gives more power to those who are weak.  
 Even boys become tired and need to rest.  
 Even young men trip and fall.  
 But the people who trust the Lord will become strong again.  
 They will be able to rise up as an eagle in the sky.  
 They will run without needing rest.  
 They will walk without becoming tired.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 5.43-48

**All stand**

1. Choir  
 2. Choir and Congregation

Fintan O'Carroll

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Choir** Jesus said, 'Love your enemies, and pray for those who hurt you; do this, and you will be my Father's true children.'

**All Alleluia, alleluia ...**

**All** The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**All** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemies."  
 But I say to you, love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to



rise on good people and on evil people, and he sends rain to those who do right and to those who do wrong. If you love only the people who love you, you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than other people. Even those who don't know God are nice to their friends. So you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Hymn

*The Choir come and sit in the Nave*

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.**

**High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Words: Irish, c 8th century  
tr Mary Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified, Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

Music: Slane  
Traditional Irish Melody  
Harm by Eric Routley (1917-1982)

## Talk - Presentation

*All sit*

*Ian Rivett speaks about ninety years of scouting  
at St Matthew's*

## We believe

*All stand*

*Priest* As God's family, let us declare the faith of the Church.

**All** 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.

*All sit*

## Our Prayers to God

*Priest* In peace let us pray to the Lord with hope for the future  
of the world, and for the needs of all people.

*After each prayer*

*Intercessor* Father, by your Spirit,  
**All** bring in your kingdom.

*At the end*

*Priest*      Merciful Father,  
*All*            **accept these prayers**  
                  **that we may know your peace in our hearts,**  
                  **and your love in our lives,**  
                  **through Christ our Lord.**  
                  **Amen.**

*All stand*

## ¶ Preparing to meet Jesus in Bread and Wine

Hymn

*(As a precautionary measure, no collection will be taken during the service. A monetary offering may be made at the end of the service)*

*The children are invited to stand either side of the altar*

**God is our strength and refuge,  
Our present help in trouble,  
And we therefore will not fear,  
    Though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble,  
Though swirling floods are raging,  
    God the Lord of hosts  
    Is with us evermore!**

There is a flowing river  
Within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her -  
    She shall not be moved!  
God's help is swiftly given,  
Thrones vanish at his presence -  
    God the Lord of hosts  
    Is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,  
Learn of his deeds all-powerful:  
Wars will cease across the world  
    When he shatters the spear!  
Be still and know your creator,  
Uplift him in the nations -  
    God the Lord of hosts  
    Is with us evermore!

Words: Richard Bewes (b. 1934)  
based on Psalm 46

Music: Dambusters' March  
Eric Coates (1886-1958)  
arranged by John Barnard (b. 1948)

## Offering the Gifts of Bread and Wine

*Priest*      Lord, accept these gifts of bread and wine  
                 with all whom we remember today.  
                 May we your Church serve you in this generation  
                 and so find lasting peace.

*All*            **Amen.**

## Prayer over the Bread and Wine

*All*            The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*            Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Children*    Why is it right to give thanks and praise?  
*Adults*       **Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth  
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,  
everything that gives us light,  
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You are the Prince of Peace,  
you give us courage to defend what is right,  
and faith to serve your children in the world.

You made us all,  
each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

*All sing*      **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 thank you, loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us 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.

*Children* Why do we share this bread and wine?  
*Adults* **Listen, and we will hear.**

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.'

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,  
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

*Children* How do we follow Jesus Christ?  
*Adults* **Listen, and we will hear.**

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 and all your saints  
we give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever.

**All**            **Amen.**

*If you are able, please remain standing*

## The Lord's Prayer

*Priest*        Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray with confidence as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## Sign of Peace

*All stand*

*Priest* Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

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

With an appropriate gesture,  
let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

*The children return to their seats*

*Please sit or kneel*

## Breaking of the Bread

*Priest* Jesus said, my flesh is food and my blood is drink.

*All* **Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood  
live in me and I in them.**

## Invitation to Communion

*All* God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The clergy receive Holy Communion*

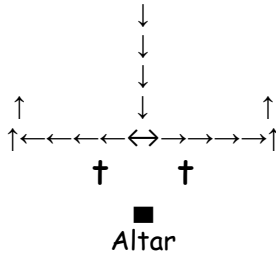


# Giving of Communion

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

*Those who are baptized and in good standing are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion. Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you to the communion rail*

*Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing at a 'station', as indicated. Please approach the priest via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles whilst maintaining physical distancing.*



## Spiritual Communion - for those watching at home

*It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:*

## Act of Reception

*All*      **In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,**

*(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)*

**I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
        and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.**

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
        my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.**

*The Choir sing Lamb of God*

**Motet**    Hail is the true light                  *William Harris (1883-1973)*

*Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful,  
lending radiance to them that endured  
in the heat of the conflict,  
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,  
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia!*

## Prayer after Communion

*Priest*      Let us pray.

*All stand*

*All*      **God of truth,  
we have seen with our eyes  
and touched with our hands the bread of life:  
strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you  
and for each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*The flags are returned to their bearers who then stand along the  
communion rail facing the altar*

**He who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.**

**Who so beset him round  
With dismal stories,  
Do but themselves confound -  
His strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might,  
Though he with giants fight:  
He will make good his right  
To be a pilgrim.**

**Since, Lord, thou dost defend  
Us with thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.**

Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)  
after John Bunyan (1628-1688)

Music: Monks Gate  
English folk song

## The National Anthem

*The bearers lower their flags*

**God save our gracious Queen,  
long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen.  
Send her victorious  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us:  
God save the Queen.**

Tune: from *Thesaurus Musicus* (c. 1743)  
Arr Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

Author Unknown (c. 1745)

## Notices for the Community

***All sit***

## ¶ Going out to serve God

*Priest*      The Lord be with you  
*All*            and also with you.

## God's Blessing

May the God of all power and might  
make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side,  
and guide you in truth and peace;

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

*All*            **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*All*            Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Voluntary

*Marche héroïque*      *Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)*

*The procession departs*

*Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those  
who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.*

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## Collection

*We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church using the receptacle provided at the back of church.*

*If you are a tax payer, please use the yellow envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid associated with your giving.*

*Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.*

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**Please take this booklet home  
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,  
and then re-cycle it.**

*Please do join us of the green  
at the east end of the church building*

**Our next All Age Service  
Harvest Thanksgiving  
Sunday 3rd October at 10.15**

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*Some images from the Battle of Britain*

