

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

## The Third Sunday after Trinity

Proper 9 Year C



*'Go on your way... and say to them,  
"The kingdom of God has come near to you."*

All-age Mass for the Parish Family

Sunday 6 July 2025

10.15 am

# Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



**Safeguarding** St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

**Live streaming** Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.

**GDPR** Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.

**Toilet and baby changing facilities** may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

**For younger children** In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-related Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.



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## Collection - 'Building a Generous Church'



### Our response to God's generosity

*We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of The Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.*

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*We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:*

***Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes*** - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

***Contactless giving*** - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

***Giving on your smart phone*** - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

***Giving online*** - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

*Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.*



St Matthew's Church, London

## This morning's readings

The First Reading, from the prophecy of Isaiah, is part of a poem written after the return from the Babylonian exile. It paints a glowing picture of the blessings God will bestow on Jerusalem and its inhabitants. It likens Jerusalem to a mother who lovingly nurses her children. It foreshadows the blessings that will result from the coming of the Kingdom of God with Jesus (see today's Gospel).

Whilst the first three Gospels record a sending out of the Twelve, only Luke records the sending out of seventy-two disciples. This second sending out is explained by the size of the harvest, and the fact that time is short, and Jesus can't do it all by himself. It also foreshadows the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world, a favourite theme of Luke.

The mission of the disciples was an extension of Jesus' own mission. In understanding his instructions to them, we must remember that this was only a temporary mission, of short duration and limited to the surrounding Jewish towns and villages.

## Prayer/Reflection

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
seek to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St Francis of Assisi

## Order of Service

### ¶ Gathering to Worship God

*S Stand at the sound of the bell*

### Call to Worship

*Priest As a family of faith, we gather together in God's presence,  
as new creations in Christ, united in praise and worship.  
Come, rejoice in him who watches over us.*

### Hymn

*All WE have a gospel to proclaim  
Good news for all throughout the earth;  
The Gospel of a Saviour's name:  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.*

*Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
Not in a royal house or hall,  
But in a stable dark and dim:  
The Word made flesh, a light for all.*

*Tell of his death at Calvary,  
Hated by those he came to save,  
In lonely suffering on the cross:  
For all he loved, his life he gave.*

*Tell of that glorious Easter morn,  
Empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
That we might share his victory.*

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
By all creation glorified:  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
To live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This Gospel message we proclaim:  
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

*Words Edward Joseph Burns b 1938*

*Music Fulda*

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

## The Greeting

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

*The service is introduced*

## Saying Sorry to God

Lord God, we draw near with joy  
to drink deeply of your loving abundance;  
rejoicing in your love that comforts and satisfies.  
Guide your servants with your merciful and forgiving hand.

*We keep silence for reflection*

## Confession

*All*      **We confess**  
that we don't want to look for Christ's image in the face  
of the beggar or the criminal.

Teach us to look, when it is easier to look away.

**We confess**  
that we don't want too many more neighbours,  
that we are happiest with those whom we choose  
for ourselves.

Teach us to listen, when we feel we've heard enough.

**We confess**  
that loving our neighbour as ourselves can be difficult,  
because we are not sure that we are lovely.  
Teach us to feel your transforming love with all our heart,  
soul, strength and mind. Amen.

## God's Forgiveness

*Priest*    May the God of love bring you back to himself,  
forgive † you your sins,  
and assure you of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## Glory to God

*All*      **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.

## The Opening Prayer

*Priest* Let us pray:

God our Father,  
your harvest reaches to the ends of the earth.  
Fill our hearts with zeal for the Good News of your kingdom,  
and as disciples of your Son  
teach us to share with joy the message of Jesus  
in the power of your Holy Spirit.

*All* Amen.

*Sit*



# ¶ Hearing and Responding to the Word of God

## First Reading

*Reader* A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her—  
that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious bosom.

For thus says the Lord:  
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,  
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;  
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,  
and dandled on her knees.  
As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;  
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;  
and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his  
servants,  
and his indignation is against his enemies.

Isaiah 66.10-14

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

***Stand***

# Today's Gospel

## Acclamation

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* I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known  
to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

*All* **Alleluia ...**

*S* We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*All*

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do

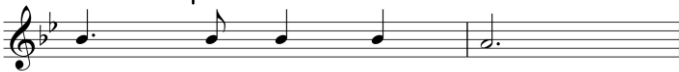
not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



All

Praise to you, O Christ.

## Hymn

*The choir come and sit in the Nave*

All

**FORTH in thy name, O Lord, I go,  
My daily labour to pursue;  
Thee, only thee, resolved to know  
In all I think, or speak, or do.**

**The task thy wisdom hath assigned  
O let me cheerfully fulfil;  
In all my works thy presence find,  
And prove thy good and perfect will.**

Preserve me from my calling's snare,  
And hide my simple heart above,  
Above the thorns of choking care,  
The gilded baits of worldly love.

Thee may I set at my right hand,  
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
And labour on at thy command,  
And offer all my works to thee.

Give me to bear thy easy yoke,  
And every moment watch and pray,  
And still to things eternal look,  
And hasten to thy glorious day;

For thee delightfully employ  
Whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,  
And run my course with even joy,  
And closely walk with thee to heaven.

*Words* Charles Wesley 1707-1788

*Music* Duke Street

Talk / Presentation

*All sit*

*The themes of the day are briefly explored*

## We Believe

*Priest* Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*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.

## Our Prayers to God

*Priest* As people who are called to be witnesses for Christ in an indifferent world, let us pray for courage and commitment.

Let us pray.

*Intercessor* We give thanks to you, O Lord, for the good news of the Gospel.  
We ask your blessing upon all who seek to share in  
the mission and outreach of Christ.  
May the Church grow in holiness, in outreach and in number.  
We pray for missionary societies  
and for all who are seeking to spread the good news.  
Grant that we may share in this mission.

*Silence*

*All* Lord of the harvest,  
**may your kingdom come in us.**

We pray for those who harvest the crops of the world.  
May no one suffer from the greed and selfishness of others.  
We pray that the hungry may be fed  
and all refugees and homeless people cared for.  
We ask you to guide those who are in charge of multinational  
companies, that their labourers may get fair wages and justice.

*Silence*

*All* Lord of the harvest,  
**may your kingdom come in us.**

We give thanks for those who have taught us the faith  
and shared their love of God.  
We ask your blessing upon our homes and our friends.  
We pray for those of our friends who do not know you  
and have not heard the Gospel.

*Silence*

*All* Lord of the harvest,  
**may your kingdom come in us.**

We ask your blessing upon the hungry of the world,  
those who are without food  
and those hungry for the word of God,  
We pray for all who are ill  
and for those who have lost their employment through illness ...

*(the acutely ill ... )*

We remember all who are lonely  
and all who are in need in any way.

*Silence*

*All* Lord of the harvest,  
**may your kingdom come in us.**

We give thanks that you offer eternal life in Christ Jesus.  
We rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints.  
Bless our loved ones and friends who have departed from us ...  
*(the recently departed, and anniversaries of death ... )*.

May they enjoy the fullness and peace of your kingdom.

*Silence*

*All* Lord of the harvest,  
**may your kingdom come in us.**

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

*Stand*

## ¶ Preparing to meet Jesus in Bread and Wine

### Hymn

*A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able  
using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet.  
Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

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

All

WILL you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?



Lord, your summons echoes true  
 When you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you  
 And never be the same.  
 In your company I'll go  
 Where your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow  
 In you and you in me.

Words John L. Bell b 1949  
 and Graham Maule 1958-2019

Music Kelvingrove  
 Scottish traditional melody  
 arranged by Michael Stoddart b 1961

## Offering the Gifts of Bread and Wine

Generous God,  
 as we come to share at your table,  
 cleanse us and remake us with the new life of your kingdom.  
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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 lead us forward  
and give us courage to take the gospel to all your children,  
so they may share with us the gift of faith.

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  
All*

**Why do we share this bread and wine?  
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 Matthew 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

Let us pray to God who is our resurrection and our life:

*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 Christ's Peace

We are the body of Christ.  
In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*The children and their leaders return to their seats*

***Sit***

## Breaking of the Bread

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

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.**

*The clergy and other ministers receive Holy Communion*

## Giving of Communion

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

*If you are baptized, and a communicant member of another  
church you are most welcome to receive Holy Communion.  
Alternatively, if you would like to receive God's blessing  
please bring this booklet with you. Thank you*

## Spiritual Communion - for those watching at home

### 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 Agnus Dei*

## Motet

Cantate Domino

*Giuseppe Octavio Pitoni 1657-1743*

*All sit for a time of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

## Prayer after Communion

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*

*All*      **GO forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take:  
Proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King,  
That all the world his worthy praise may sing.**

**Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all,  
He will in grace respond to all who call:  
How shall they call if they have never heard  
The gracious invitation of his word?**

**Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
Share God's good gifts - let no one be denied;  
Live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
Your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.**

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!  
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
Go till all nations his great name adore  
And serve him, Lord and King for evermore.**

## Notices for the Community

*Sit*

### ¶ Going out to Serve God

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

### God's Blessing

May God give you patience and encouragement  
to live in harmony as you follow Jesus Christ,  
so that you may give him praise and glory;  
  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
*All*      **Amen.**

### Sending Out

The Lord says, 'Go into all the world  
and make disciples of all nations.'  
Go in the peace of Christ.  
*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

### Organ Voluntary

Fugue in G BWV 576

*J S Bach 1685-1750*



*Please remain standing until the procession has departed*

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

*Do please join us for refreshments in the parish centre.*

This evening at 5.30 pm  
**Choral Evensong**  
sung by the combined choirs  
of St Mary's, Stamford and St Matthew's Church

**Our next All Age Mass**  
Sunday 7 September at 10.15 am

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 16  
who has generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.

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

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