



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# Eucharist for Ash Wednesday



Litany, Ashing, and Eucharist

Wednesday 14th February  
2024  
at 6.30pm



*Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.*

*All ground floor pews are free seating, but social distancing is being observed on the side pews on the Jermyn Street side of the church (on the right-hand side as you come in) both on the ground floor and at gallery level.*

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.*

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **OPENING HYMN**

[Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos; Words: Jean Holloway (b. 1939)]

**Lord, we come to ask your healing,  
teach us of love;  
all unspoken shame revealing,  
teach us of love.**

**Take our selfish thoughts and actions,  
petty feuds, divisive factions,  
hear us now to you appealing,  
teach us of love.**

**Soothe away our pain and sorrow,  
hold us in love;  
grace we cannot buy or borrow,  
hold us in love.**

**Though we see but dark and danger,  
though we spurn both friend and stranger,  
though we often dread tomorrow,  
hold us in love.**

When the bread is raised and broken,  
fill us with love;  
words of consecration spoken,  
fill us with love.

As our grateful prayers continue,  
make the faith that we have in you  
more than just an empty token,  
fill us with love.

Help us live for one another,  
bind us in love;  
stranger, neighbour, father, mother -  
bind us in love.

All are equal at your table,  
through your Spirit make us able  
to embrace as sister, brother,  
bind us in love.

## **OPENING RESPONSES**

*The priest says*

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service.*

**KYRIE:** *(MacNamara)*

*The cantor sings*

When our life is at its strongest.

*All sing*

**When our days are at their longest.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

At the first coming of the dawn.

**On the life that's newly born.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

At the turning of the tide.

**On life's ocean deep and wide.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

When our powers are nearly done.

**At the setting of the sun.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

When we come to breathe our last.

**When the gates of death are passed.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **The Collect**

*The priest says*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent.  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,

that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you,  
the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Joel 2.1-2, 12-17**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

and relents from punishing.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain-offering and a drink-offering  
for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
"Where is their God?" '

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## **PSALM 51.1-12**

*Response: **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a right spirit within me.***

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:  
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.  
Wash away all my guilt:  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults:  
and my sin is always before me.  
Against you only have I sinned  
and done evil in your sight:  
so that you are justified in your sentence,  
and blameless in your judging.

Take hyssop, sprinkle me with water and I shall be clean:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness:  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Do not cast me away from your presence:  
do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Give me the joy of your help again:  
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.

*Please remain standing.*

## **THE GOSPEL**

**Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21**

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

**Glory to you O Lord.**

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**



*Please sit.*

## **SERMON**

The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

*A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.*

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken.*

*If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate or the QR code on page 22.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

[Tune: Repton; Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92)]

**Dear Lord and Father of us all,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind:  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise,  
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee,  
rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love,  
interpreted by love.**

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace,  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm,  
O still small voice of calm.

## THE LITANY

*The cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy God.

*All sing*

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,  
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

*The priest says*

God the Creator,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Redeemer,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love,  
**have mercy on us.**

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

*The priest says*

We have not loved you with our whole heart,  
and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have not listened to your call to serve,  
as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Eternal God...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride,  
hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our  
envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, God of grace...

for the wrongs we have done,  
for our indifference to human need and  
suffering, to injustice and cruelty.

**Accept our repentance, gracious God.**

For all false judgements,  
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours  
and for our prejudice and contempt towards those  
who differ from us.

**Accept our repentance, gracious God.**

For our waste and pollution of creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**Accept our repentance, gracious God.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of Jesus Christ,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

**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 cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy God.

*All sing*

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,  
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

## **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those who wish are invited to move to the front of the nave aisle to receive the imposition of ashes upon their forehead, to the words:*

*'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.'*

*The response is 'Amen'.*

*Immediately afterwards, please move to either your left or right and take up a position within the sanctuary so that we fully surround the altar in readiness for the sharing of the Peace and the celebration of the Eucharist. If you have chosen not to be ashed, please join the circle at this point.*

*During the ashing, the **Lent Prose** and **Is It Nothing To You?** (Sir Frederick Ouseley) will be sung by the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars.*

### ***The Lent prose***

*Mozarabic chant from the 10th century*

*Refrain:*

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:  
for we have sinned against thee.*

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:  
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:  
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

O thou chief Corner-stone, right hand of the Father:  
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:  
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated  
bow down and hearken to thy children:  
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:  
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:  
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:  
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced:  
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

### ***Is It Nothing To You?***

*Words: The Lamentations of Jeremiah 1.12*

*Music: Sir Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley (1825-1889)*

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if  
there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto  
me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his  
fierce anger.

*Please join in singing the congregational Taizé chant:*

**Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.**

*After the ashing is completed and all are gathered around the altar...*

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

*The priest says*

May you be enriched with God's grace,  
and nourished with God's blessing;  
may God defend you in trouble and keep you from evil;  
may God accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*The priest says*

Being justified by faith we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The deacon says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The priest says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please share the Peace in a socially distanced way if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat function if you are online.*

*As the altar is prepared, please join in singing...*

**Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom,  
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.**  
*(repeated)*

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...*

## **SANCTUS**

*The cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.\***

**God of heaven and earth adored.**

**Ceasing never, God for ever,**

**Holy Lord.**

*(repeat as a round, second part starting at \*)*

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:  
"... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*



*The cantor sings*

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.**

**Come, O Christ.**

**Come, O Christ, in glory.**

*The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor . . .*

**Blessing and honour, glory and power,  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in your own language.*

*The priest says*

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The Bread is broken and the priest says*

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

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

## **AGNUS DEI**

*The cantor sings*

**Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi  
Miserere nobis, miserere nobis,  
miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi  
Dona nobis pacem,  
dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.**

*Lamb of God  
that takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God  
that takes away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The priest says*

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 Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## THE COMMUNION

*During Communion the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will sing **Nolo Mortem Peccatoris**, Music: Thomas Morley (c.1557-1602); Words: John Redford (d.1547). First published: 1616.*

Nolo mortem peccatoris; Haec sunt verba Salvatoris.  
*("I do not wish the death of a sinner."  
These are the words of the Saviour.)*

Father I am thine only Son,  
sent down from heav'n mankind to save.  
Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will,  
I have.  
Father, my will now all is this: Nolo mortem peccatoris.  
Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on ev'ry side;  
Ev'n from my birth to death most tart,  
no kind of pain I have denied,  
but suffered all, and all for this:  
Nolo mortem peccatoris.

### ***A Prayer for Spiritual Communion***

*inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)*

*Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,  
for all the benefits you have given me  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to be present with me spiritually in my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer,*

*friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.  
Amen.*

### **Prayers for use during Communion**

Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel  
'I am with you always'. Be with me as part of  
this community today in this Eucharist;  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself.  
May I bind myself to you, in communion with  
all that lives this day, knowing that nothing can separate me  
from your love.  
Amen.

O God, help me to trust you,  
and to know that you are with me now.  
Help me to know that all are yours,  
and you are ours,  
in this Eucharist and for ever.  
Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The priest says*

Eternal God, giver of all good things,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the  
precious body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
We thank you for your love and care in assuring us of your gift  
of eternal life, and uniting us with the blessed company of all  
faithful people.

Therefore, ever living God,  
keep us steadfast in your holy fellowship.  
And now we offer ourselves,  
all that we have and are,  
to serve you faithfully in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

## **HYMN**

[Tune: Kingsfold; Words: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889]]

I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad,  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say;  
'I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,

and all your day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk,  
till trav'ling days are done.

## THE BLESSING

*The priest says*

May God give you grace to follow the light of Christ,  
wherever you are led and however long the road.  
And the blessing of God almighty:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you on this day and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

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



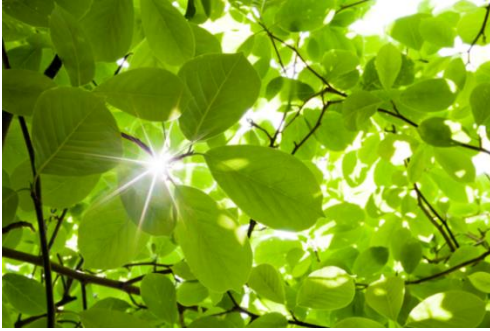
*In addition to the physical collection,  
if you do not have cash with you, please  
scan this QR code with your smartphone  
to make a one-off or regular donation.*

*Alternatively, please visit  
[sjp.org.uk/donate](http://sjp.org.uk/donate), or us one of the tap  
donation points in the church.*



## Lent Contemplative Space

Friday 16th February - Friday 22nd March at 6pm on Zoom



A space for prayer, readings and silence through Lent. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All welcome to join for one or all sessions.

The resources and Zoom link can be found at:

<https://www.sjp.org.uk/whats-on/lent-contemplative-space/>

## Holding the Silence

Sunday 25th February at 12.45pm

Our monthly Holding the Silence gathering in person will be held on Sunday 25th February, in the side chapel for 30 minutes.



The gatherings include readings, shared silence and prayers.

All are welcome.

## Music Scholars Concert: An Easter Sequence

Sunday 7th April at 7pm

Tickets have just gone on sale for *An Easter Sequence*, featuring St James's Singing and Instrumental Scholars and directed by Michael Haslam.



The programme will include music by Kenneth Leighton, Vaughan Williams, Moses Hogan, Marianne Kim, Sarah Macdonald and Dai Fujikura.

The proceeds from this concert will be used to support the Singing Scholars' summer tour of Yorkshire 2024.

Tickets are available via:

[www.sjp.org.uk/whats-on/music-scholars-concert-an-easter-sequence/](http://www.sjp.org.uk/whats-on/music-scholars-concert-an-easter-sequence/)



St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL  
Tel: 020 7292 4860 • [www.sjp.org.uk](http://www.sjp.org.uk) • [@StJPiccadilly](https://twitter.com/StJPiccadilly)