

# St Mary's Church, Walkley



**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*

## **The Second Sunday before Lent Racial Justice Sunday Eucharist**

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings  
Preacher: The Revd Canon James Wilson  
Team Warden: Alexandra**

## The Gathering and Opening Hymn

*We stand and we sing the opening hymn. Children aged 8 and under are welcome to join our Diddy Disciples taking place in the main hall. Please gather at the back of church. If you are aged 4 or under, please bring an adult with you. You'll be back for the peace.*

*President* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Greeting

*President* We stand before the throne of God with countless crowds  
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

*All* **Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour, power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## The Confession and Absolution

*Minister* We have come together as God's family  
to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church  
and for the renewal of our common life.  
The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion.  
In penitence and faith let us ask his forgiveness of our sins.

*We keep a time of silence.*

*Minister* We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;  
Lord, be merciful:

*All* **forgive us our sin.**

*Minister* We have seen the ill-treatment of others  
and have not gone to their aid;  
Lord, be merciful:

*All* **forgive us our sin.**

*Minister* We have condoned evil and dishonesty  
and failed to strive for justice;  
Lord, be merciful:

*All* **forgive us our sin.**

*Minister* We have heard the good news of Christ,  
but have failed to share it with others;  
Lord, be merciful:

*All* **forgive us our sin.**

*Minister* We have not loved you with all our heart,  
nor our neighbours as ourselves;  
Lord, be merciful:

*All* **forgive us our sin.**

*President* May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We remain standing and we sing:*

### **The Gloria in Excelsis**

*All* **Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Glory to God in the highest, 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 in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
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,  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father: receive, receive our prayer.  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you  
alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with Holy Spirit, in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen. In the glory of God the Father,  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*President* Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## **The Reading: Genesis 1. 1 - 2. 3**

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and

let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gradual Hymn**

*We stand and we sing. During the hymn we turn to face the processional cross as the book of the Gospels moves to the middle of the people.*

## **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 6. 25 - end**

*Minister* Alleluia, alleluia.

There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

*All* **Alleluia.**

*Ephesians 4.4-6*

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

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

*Minister* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*We stand.*

## **The Creed**

*President* Let us declare our faith in God:

*All*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

## The Prayers of Intercession

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Or another response is used.*

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

*We stand.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*President* Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles,  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.'  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and grant it that peace and unity which is according to your will.

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

*Minister* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange the peace through smiles, waves and handshakes  
with those around us, as you feel comfortable.*

## The Offertory Hymn

*We stand and we sing as the altar is prepared. If you would like to  
support St Mary's, donations can be made after the service at the  
back of church using the collection plate or contactless card giving  
station. If you would like to give regularly to St Mary's please speak  
to the Treasurer, or one of the Team Wardens.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*President* You are worthy of our thanks and praise,

Lord God of truth,

for by the breath of your mouth

you have spoken your word,

and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image

and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion

you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,

evermore praising you and singing:

*Cantor* Holy Holy Holy Lord

*All* **Holy Holy Holy Lord**

*Cantor* God of power and God of might

*All* **God of power and God of might**

*Cantor* Heaven and earth are full of your glory

*All* **Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

*Cantor* Hosanna in the highest

*All* **Hosanna in the highest**

*Cantor* Blessed is he who comes

*All* **Blessed is he who comes**

*Cantor* In the name of the Lord most High

*All* **In the name of the Lord most High**

*Cantor* Hosanna

*All* **Hosanna**

*Cantor* Hosanna

*All* **Hosanna**

*Cantor* Hosanna in the highest

*All* **Hosanna in the highest**

*President* Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

*All* **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end,  
he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

*All* **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

*All* **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*All* **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

*All* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

*All* **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

*President* Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth,  
heal the sick,  
let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.

*All* **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth  
to feast with Mary, Mark John and all your saints  
at the table in your kingdom,  
where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* **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 Breaking of the Bread**

*President* 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 Giving of Communion

*President* Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
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 president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front.*

*The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar. During the distribution we sing and music is played.*

## The Prayer after Communion

*President* Let us pray.

God our creator,  
by your gift  
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:  
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Eternal God and Father,  
whose Son, at supper prayed that his disciples might be one,  
as he is one with you:  
draw us closer to him,  
that in common love and obedience to you,  
we may be united to one another  
in the fellowship of the one Spirit,  
that the world may believe that he is Lord,  
to your eternal glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Notices

*We stand.*

## The Blessing

*President* The blessing of God the Father,  
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;  
of God the Son,  
who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people  
and nation;  
and of God the Spirit,  
who brings us together in unity,  
be with us and remain with us always.  
*All* **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

*We remain standing and we sing during which we turn to face the back of church as the robed ministers process.*

## The Dismissal

*Minister* One in heart and one in mind,  
and empowered by the Spirit,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

***Refreshments are served after the service.***

**For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)**

