# St Nicholas Church, Shepperton

# Parish Eucharist

## 4th October 2026

## Celebrating Creation tide and Harvest Festival

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*In the name of the Lord Jesus we welcome you to St Nicholas Shepperton today. It is wonderful that you have chosen to worship here today. For centuries, people have gathered on this site to support each other, to laugh and cry together, to sing and pray and to come before God and be nourished and sustained at the altar. It is our hope that you will leave here today having been given a glimpse of God's kingdom.*

**Please join in where indicated in bold.**

**Opening Hymn**

**Let us sing to the Lord, our Creator;**
**let us praise him for all he's made:**
**for the mountains and seashore and rivers,**
**for the snow and wind and sun and shade.**
***God our Father,***
***Jesus, Saviour,***
***Holy Spirit,***
***help us learn your ways,***
***live to please you,***
***love and serve you,***
***honour you with all our praise.***

**He made trees and the birds and the flowers;**
**he made rain and the rainbow, too.**
**Let us sing of his power and his glory -**
**there is nothing that our God can't do!**
***God our Father,***
***Jesus, Saviour,***
***Holy Spirit,***
***help us learn your ways,***
***live to please you,***
***love and serve you,***
***honour you with all our praise.***

**Let us join with the whole of creation,**
**let us praise our great God and King,**
**as the angels, who worship in heaven,**
**sing in chorus with the praise we bring.**
***God our Father,***
***Jesus, Saviour,***
***Holy Spirit,***
***help us learn your ways,***
***live to please you,***
***love and serve you,***
***honour you with all our praise.***

*Words: Irene Jarvis 2019*

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

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
**And also with you.**

The Spirit of God hovered over the water
**And brought life to all creation**

Come Holy Spirit
**And renew the face of the earth**

*Words of Welcome and Introduction*

**Invitation to confession.**
We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:
**Forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy:
**Forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy:
**Forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy:
**Forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.
Father in your mercy:
**Forgive us and help us.**

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. **Amen**

*As we sing the Gloria, the children are invited, if they wish to do so, to join the SNAP team in the Parish Centre where they will be able to take part in a bible story through the use of Godly Play. They will rejoin us in the service as Communion is distributed***.**

**Gloria**
**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 Collect.

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;
We thank you for the riches of your creation may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen.**

**First Reading** - Genesis 1: 26-31

Then God said, "Let us make humans 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 humans 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.
This is the word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**
**Joyful, joyful, we adore You,**
**God of glory, Lord of love;**
**Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,**
**Op'ning to the sun above.**
**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;**
**Drive the dark of doubt away;**
**Giver of immortal gladness,**
**Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Your works with joy surround You,**
**Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,**
**Stars and angels sing around You,**
**Centre of unbroken praise;**
**Field and forest, vale and mountain,**
**Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,**
**Chanting bird and flowing fountain**
**Praising You eternally!**

**Always giving and forgiving,**
**Ever blessing, ever blest,**
**Well-spring of the joy of living,**
**Ocean-depth of happy rest!**
**Loving Father, Christ our Brother,**
**Let Your light upon us shine;**
**Teach us how to love each other,**
**Lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus,**
**Which the morning stars began;**
**God's own love is reigning o'er us,**
**Joining people hand in hand.**
**Ever singing, march we onward,**

**Victors in the midst of strife;**
**Joyful music leads us sunward**
**in the triumph song of life.** *Words: Henry Van Dyke (1907)*
**Gospel Acclamation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things.
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

*Matthew 6: 25-33*
*Do Not Worry*

"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 which of you by worrying can 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 seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon – Simon Sheldon, Licensed Lay Minister**

**The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
**We believe and trust in God the Father**
**Who made the world.**

**We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ,**
**who redeemed the world.**

**We believe and trust In the Holy Spirit**
**Who gives life to the people of God.**

**We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
**Amen**

**Our Prayers**
Lord hear us
**Lord graciously hear us**

*And at the end*
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers**
**for the sake of your Son,**
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Peace.**
The harvest of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn 511**

*A collection for the mission and ministry of the parish will be taken during this hymn. Many people give regularly by standing order so do not put a gift into the bag each Sunday, but we hope that everyone will contribute to the life of the church according to their own means. Thank you for your generosity.*

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder**
**consider all the works thy hand hath made,**
**I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,**
**thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,***
***How great thou art, how great thou art!***
***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,***
***How great thou art, how great thou art!***

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,**
**and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;**
**when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,**
**and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;**

**But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,**
**sent him to die - I scarce can take it in**
**that on the cross, our burden gladly bearing,**
**he bled and died to take away our sin;**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation**
**and take me home-what joy shall fill my heart!**
**Then shall I bow in humble adoration,**
**and there proclaim: My God, how great thou art!**

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed, by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**Blessed be God forever.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

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 prays the Eucharistic prayer and we join together to sing:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**
**God of power and might,**
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**
**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes**
**in the name of the Lord**
**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please sit or kneel*

*The priest recalls the Last Supper….*

## The Lord's Prayer

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

## Breaking of the Bread

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**

*We all join together to sing:*

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world**
**Have mercy on us**
**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world**
**Have mercy on us**
**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world**
**Grant us peace**

**Giving of Communion**

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

*You are warmly invited to feast at the Lord's table. If you are baptised and regularly take communion in your own church you are welcome to receive here at St Nicholas. Holy Communion is offered in both kinds, bread and wine, but you are free to receive in one kind only. If you wish to receive in both kinds, please do not dip the Eucharistic wafers into the wine. You are invited to receive a blessing if you do not take communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed.*

**Anthem by Choir**

**Communion Hymn 184**

**For the beauty of the earth,**
**For the beauty of the skies,**
**For the love which from our birth**
**Over and around us lies,**
***Lord of all, to thee we raise***
***This our sacrifice of praise.***

**For the beauty of each hour**
**Of the day and of the night,**
**Hill and vale, and tree and flower,**
**Sun and moon and stars of light,**
***Lord of all, to thee we raise***
***This our sacrifice of praise.***

**For the joy of human love,**
**Brother, sister, parent, child,**
**Friends on earth, and friends above,**
**Pleasures pure and undefiled,**
***Lord of all, to thee we raise***
***This our sacrifice of praise.***

**For each perfect gift of thine,**
**To us all so freely given,**
**Graces human and divine,**
**Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,**
***Lord of all, to thee we raise***
***This our sacrifice of praise.***

**For thy Church which evermore**
**Lifteth holy hands above,**
**Offering up on every shore**
**Her pure sacrifice of love.**
***Lord of all, to thee we raise***
***This our sacrifice of praise.***

*Any consecrated bread and wine which is not required for purposes of communion is consumed at the end of the distribution or after the service.*

## Prayer after Communion

*silence is kept.*

**Creator God, you give seed for us to sow,**
**And bread for us to eat; make us thankful for what we have received and generous in supplying the needs of others so all the world may give you thanks and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## NOTICES.

*We will now bring up our Harvest Gifts which will be blessed before being taken to the food bank, Bags of Food.*

**Final Hymn Harvest Samba**
**Cabbages and greens, Broccoli and beans,**
**Cauliflower and roasted potatoes,**
**Taste so good to me!**
**Apricots and plums,**
**Ripened in the sun,**
**Oranges and yellow bananas,**
**Good for everyone!**

***Chorus***
***It's another Harvest Festival***
***When we bring our fruit and vegetables,***
***Cause we want to share the best of all***
***The good things that we've been given.***
***It's another opportunity***
***to be grateful for the food we eat***
***With a Samba celebration***
***To say thank you to God the Father.***

**Golden corn and wheat,**
**Oats and sugar beet,**
**Fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti,**
**Wonderful to eat!**
**Coffee, cocoa, tea,**
**Growing naturally,**
**Herbal plants and all kinds of spices**
**Very nice indeed!**

***Chorus***
***It's another Harvest Festival***
***When we bring our fruit and vegetables,***
***Cause we want to share the best of all***
***The good things that we've been given.***
***It's another opportunity***
***to be grateful for the food we eat***
***With a Samba celebration***
***To say thank you to God the Father.***

**Thank you for the harvest,**
**Thank you for your goodness,**
**For all of the fruit and vegetables**
**and the wonderful things that grow!**
**Thank you for the harvest,**
**Thank you for your goodness,**
**For all of the fruit and vegetables**
**and the wonderful things that grow!**

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**Thank you for your goodness,**
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***When we bring our fruit and vegetables,***
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***It's another opportunity***
***to be grateful for the food we eat***
***With a Samba celebration***
***To say thank you to God the Father.***

## Act of Commitment

Knowing that God has blessed us with abundant riches, let us commit ourselves to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Will you order your life to protect and preserve the earth's resources, living simply so that others may simply live?

**We will**

Will you pray for all who sow in the hope of an abundant harvest, for those who will grow and be fed by it?

**We will**

Will you preach the good news of God's new creation that others may learn to tend and nurture it; and will you welcome others to feast on bread and wine at His table?

**We will**

Merciful God, you have blessed us richly, yet we offer to you our fears that what we sow may not grow to fruition. Sustain and nurture us as we make known your work in creation, and give us compassion as we look with wonder at even the smallest of seeds.
We pray that the good news rooted within us will feed the world around us and knowing that you planted us in the garden of your delight, we pray that we may be counted in the harvest of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ the first fruits. **Amen.**

*If you are able to, please remain standing for the final Blessing*

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

**Blessing**

May God the Father who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide us with all we need for life in it's fullness, **Amen**

May God the Son, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine, feed us with his life and transform us in his love**. Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. **Amen.**

and the + blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ.
**Thanks be to God.**

*Do take home your service sheet*
*so that you can look at the readings during the week*
*and remind yourselves of the Act of Commitment*
*we have made today.*

**You are most welcome to join us, immediately after this service, for coffee in the Parish Centre.**