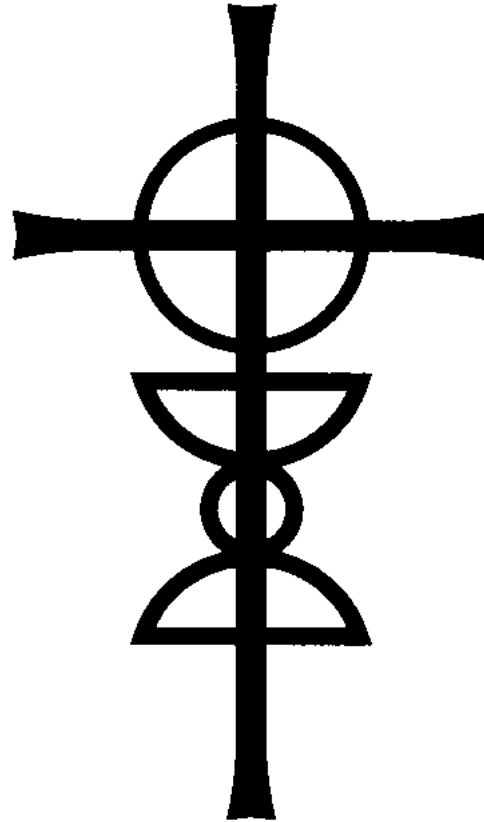


**St Barbara's Church  
Earlsdon**



**Holy Communion  
Advent**

## **A very warm welcome to St Barbara's.**

We are delighted to welcome you to St Barbara's Church this morning. We hope you will enjoy the service.

During the service, please join in the words in **bold**.

### ***An Introduction to the Service***

Today's service is a sung communion service. The service involves prayers, listening to the Bible and a talk, and celebrating communion, the meal that Jesus gave us to remember him by. Some of the words in this service are sung. The tunes are easy to pick up, but you are welcome just to listen if you prefer.

### ***Children***

During this service there is the opportunity for children to go out to groups to explore the Bible and worship and pray in age-appropriate ways. They will return in time for communion towards the end of the service. There is also a children's corner at the back of church, suitable for very young children.

### ***Receiving Communion***

All who are baptised and would normally receive communion when attending church are very welcome to receive communion with us this morning. If you would not normally receive communion, or would prefer not to on this occasion, you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing. You can indicate this by holding this service booklet in your hand when you come forward.

St Barbara's welcomes all children and adults to receive communion, after a period of preparation. Usually children do this from seven years of age upwards. Please do speak to the vicar after the service if this is something you would like to consider.

### ***Refreshments***

Please do join us for refreshments in the church hall after the service—it will be lovely to get to know you.

We pray that you will know God's blessing this morning.

# The Gathering

*We **stand** as the choir and clergy enter the church.*



## THE GREETING

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.**

*We **sit** for the **NOTICES** and the **INTRODUCTION** to the service.*

*We **stand** to sing our **OPENING HYMN**.*

*We **sit** or kneel as we pray a **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**:*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES**

*As the Advent candles are lit a prayer is said, and then we all pray:*

**Watching, waiting, help us to be ready for you Jesus. Amen.**

*We pray for the **CHILDREN** as they go out to their groups.*

*We have a time of **CONFESSION**, a time when we acknowledge  
our failings before God and ask and receive his forgiveness.*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in  
darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

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

*We remain seated to **sing** the KYRIE ELEISON:*

**Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw *you* to himself  
and cleanse *you* from all *your* sins,  
that *you* may behold the glory of His Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

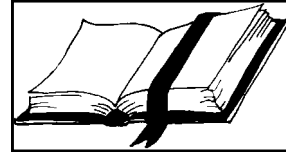
#### **THE COLLECT**

*The COLLECT, the church's special prayer for the day, is prayed.*

## **The Word of God**

We **sit** to hear our first **BIBLE READING**.

*At the end of the reading:*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



We **stand** to sing our next **HYMN**.

We remain **standing** for our **GOSPEL READING**.

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
**Alleluia.**

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

*At the end of the reading:*  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

We **sit** to hear the **SERMON**.

## **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We **stand** to declare our faith in God.

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*We **sit** or **kneel** for our PRAYERS.*

*Our response to the prayers may be:*  
Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of our prayers, we may pray:*  
Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

# **The Eucharist**

## **THE PEACE**

*We **stand** to share the PEACE.*

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**



*We share with one another a sign of peace, such as a handshake.*

## **THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

*We remain **standing** to sing our **OFFERTORY HYMN**, during which  
a collection is taken for the work of the church, and the bread and  
wine are brought forward and placed on the holy table.*

*At the end of the hymn the minister prays:*

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

*We remain **standing** for the EUCHARISTIC PRAYER.*

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven

to proclaim your glory

for ever praising you and *singing*:

**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.**

*Please **sit** or kneel.*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all  
upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,**  
**rising you restored our life:**  
**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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**

*The president BREAKS THE BREAD, and says:*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*We join with the choir in singing:*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

## **THE GIVING OF COMMUNION**

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

**We do not presume**

**to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy**

**so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord**

**whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,**

**so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ**

**and to drink his blood,**

**that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.**

**Amen.**

*Please come up for communion as directed. If you don't normally receive communion you are welcome to come up for a prayer of blessing—you can indicate this by holding this booklet in your hand when you come forward. You are welcome to bring children up for a prayer of blessing too.*

*Please do join in the hymns sung during communion.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

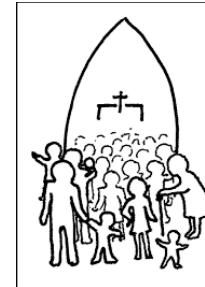
*At the end of communion, the minister may pray a prayer, and then we all pray:*

**God, you have fed us at your heavenly table.  
Set us on fire with your Spirit  
that when Christ comes again  
we may shine like lights before his face,  
who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Sending Out**

*We hear back from the **CHILDREN**.*

*We sing our **FINAL HYMN**, and turn to face the door as the cross passes.*



## **THE BLESSING**

*We remain **standing** for a final BLESSING.*

Our Lord says, "I am coming soon."  
**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
**Amen.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

To a troubled world  
**Peace from Christ.**

To a searching world  
**Love from Christ.**

To a waiting world  
**Hope from Christ.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the  
Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Please do join us for refreshments in the church hall at the  
end of the service.**