# Holy Communion – 15th November 2026
# Shoebox Sunday

**Welcome & Notices:**

**Opening Prayer:**

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen.**

**Hymn: Colours of Day**

**Colours of day dawn into the mind**
**The sun has come up, the night is behind**
**Go down in the city, into the street**
**And let's give the message to the people we meet**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn***
***Open the door, let Jesus return***
***Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow***
***Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show***

**Go through the park, on into the town**
**The sun still shines on, it never goes down**
**The light of the world is risen again**
**The people of darkness are needing a friend**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn***
***Open the door, let Jesus return***
***Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow***
***Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show***

**Open your eyes, look into the sky**
**The darkness has come, the Son came to die**
**The evening draws on, the sun disappears**
**But Jesus is living, his Spirit is near**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn***
***Open the door, let Jesus return***
***Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow***
***Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show***

Sue McClellan; John Paculabo; Keith Ryecroft © 1974 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

**Collect for Purity:**

**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.**

**Prayers of Penitence:**

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith. (*cf Matthew 3.2)*

*Time of silence*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**
**we have sinned against you**
**and against our neighbour**
**in thought and word and deed,**
**through negligence, through weakness,**
**through our own deliberate fault.**
**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.**
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**
**who died for us, forgive us all that is past**
**and grant that we may serve you in newness of life**
**to the glory of your name. Amen**

**Absolution:**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen**

**Gloria.** *(sung)*

**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.**

**Collect for the Second Sunday Before Advent:**

**Heavenly Lord,**
**you long for the world's salvation:**
**stir us from apathy,**
**restrain us from excess**
**and revive in us new hope**
**that all creation will one day be healed**
**in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**First Reading: I Thessalonians 5 1-11** *(Sue Briggs)*

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who

sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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

## Gradual Hymn: Christ Be Our Light

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness,**
**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**
**Make us your own, your holy people,**
**Light for the world to see.**

***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,***
***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled,**
**Longing for hope, many despair.**
**Your Word alone has power to save us.**
**Make us your living voice.**

***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,***
***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for food, many are hungry,**
**Longing for water, many still thirst.**
**Make us your bread, broken for others,**
**Share until all are fed.**

***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,***
***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless,**
**Longing for warmth, many are cold.**
**Make us your building, sheltering others,**
**Walls made of living stones.**

***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,***
***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Many the gifts, many the people,**
**Many the hearts that yearn to belong.**
**Let us be servants to one another,**
**Making your kingdom come.**

***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,***
***Christ be our light!***
***Shine in your church gathered today.***

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**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25: 14-30 *(Lindsey)*

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

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

The man with two bags of gold also came. “Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more.”

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. “Master,” he said, “I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.”

His master replied, “You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon:** *(Lindsey)*

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father,**
**God almighty, by whose plan**
**earth and heaven sprang to being,**
**all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,**
**Son of God in human frame,**
**virgin-born, the child of Mary**
**upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,**
**like a lamb to slaughter led,**
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**
**he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,**
**heaven's king to rule and reign,**
**to the Father's side ascended**
**till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;**
**in one Church, below, above:**
**saints of God in one communion,**
**one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,**
**Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,**
**we shall rise with him in glory**
**to the life that knows no end.**

**Prayers of Intercession:** *(Eileen)*

***Responses:***

Lord, in your mercy:
**Hear our Prayer**

Merciful Father**:**
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Peace:**

Grace and peace to you, from him who is, and who was, and who is to come; and the peace of the Lord be always with you:

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;**
**let me be as Christ to you;**
**pray that I may have the grace to**
**let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,**
**and companions on the road;**
**we are here to help each other**
**walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ light for you**
**in the night time of your fear;**
**I will hold my hand out to you,**
**speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;**
**when you laugh I'll laugh with you;**
**I will share your joy and sorrow,**
**till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,**
**we shall find such harmony,**
**born of all we've known together**
**of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;**
**let me be as Christ to you;**
**pray that I may have the grace to**
**let you be my servant too.**

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**Offertory Prayer:**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty;
for every thing in heaven and on earth is yours.
**All things come from you,**
**and of your own do we give you.**
**Amen**

**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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children**
**and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross**
**and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**
**his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**
**his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.
**As we eat and drink these holy gifts**
**make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

**The Lord's Prayer:** *(sung)*

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.**

**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.

**Worship During administration:** **Joyce to select**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

**Gracious Lord,**
**in this holy sacrament**
**you give substance to our hope:**
**bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long;**
**through Jesus Christ our Saviour.**
**Amen**

**Sharing Time**

**Blessing of the Shoe Boxes**

Loving God, we pray for your blessing of these shoeboxes for the mission of Blythswood Care.
**Loving God, we ask for your blessing.**

We pray for hurting children and their families that their lives will be enriched by these boxes that we have packed with love.
**Loving God, we pray for your loving touch.**

We pray especially that through these gifts the hearts of the children and their families will know your grace.
**Loving God, we pray for your grace to be made known.**

We pray also for children and their families who are suffering in the desperate circumstances of poverty, sickness or war, that you will meet their physical needs.
**Providing God, we pray for your bounty.**

We pray, also for all those who are participating in some way in the mission of this Shoebox Appeal: for the process of collecting, processing, transporting and delivering of the boxes to their to the right people who need to know about your love.
**Providing God, we pray that you would smooth the way.**

In faith, we ask for your blessing.
**Amen.**

**Hymn** **I, the Lord of sea and sky**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,**
**I have heard my people cry**
**All who dwell in dark and sin,**
**My hand will save**

**I, who made the stars of night**
**I will make their darkness bright**
**Who will bear my light to them?**
**Whom shall I send?**

***Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?***
***I have heard you calling in the night***
***I will go Lord if you lead me***
***I will hold your people in my heart***

**I, the Lord of snow and rain**
**I have born my people's pain**
**I have wept for love of them,**
**They turn away**
**I will break their heart of stone,**
**Give them hearts for love alone**
**I will speak my word to them,**
**Whom shall I send?**

***Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?***
***I have heard you calling in the night***
***I will go Lord if you lead me***
***I will hold your people in my heart***

**I, the Lord of wind and flame**
**I will tend the poor and lame**
**I will set a feast for them,**
**My hand will save**
**Finest bread I will provide,**
**Till their hearts be satisfied**
**I will give my life to them,**
**Whom shall I send**

***Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?***
***I have heard you calling in the night***
***I will go Lord if you lead me***
***I will hold your people in my heart***

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**Final Blessing**

God give us grace to behold his glory,
To enter into his love,
To be guided by his wisdom,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.
**Amen**

**Dismissal:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
**In the name of Christ: Amen**

There are refreshments available at the back of church.