

Closing Hymn **Before the throne of God above**

Blessing - Northumbrian Community Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

Amen.

After the service please join us for
refreshments, and remember there are
people willing to pray with you in confidence.



St Michael's Church, Highworth
10.15am service — Sunday 12th January 2025

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship

Jesus said,

'Come to me all you who are weary and burdened.'

**So let us come to him now
with the weariness of our return to everyday life,
and the burdens of the year ahead.**

**Let us put them and ourselves
into his strong arms,
so that he can lower us into the waters
and raise us, cleansed and refreshed.**

A gathering prayer

As we hear the story of his Baptism, let us pray.

**God, our loving parent,
you encouraged Jesus at his baptism,
saying you were well pleased
when he presented himself along
with the community for baptism in the Jordan.
May you be pleased with us
as we present ourselves here today.**

Amen.

Opening Hymn **Come now is the time to worship**

Opening Prayer

**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.

Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Pause for reflection

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Collect Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Distribution of Communion

Post Communion Collect

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer of thanksgiving

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

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

The Ministry of the Word
Epistle Reading – Acts 8: 14-17 (NRSV)
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn **Let your living water flow**

Gospel Reading - Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

(After the reading)
This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

What has God been doing this week?

Prayers and Intercessions

The Peace

Offertory Hymn **Oceans (Where feet may fall)**

Preparation of table

Eucharistic Prayer H
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.