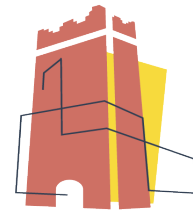


**A very warm welcome to St Peter's Church!
Thank you for joining us this morning.**



St Peter's

COLCHESTER

CONNECT with us at St Peter's

Please scan this QR code with your smartphone to connect with us online: you can ask a question, send us a prayer request, or just ask for more information about things at St Peter's...



Communion Service

Sunday 18th October 2026
10:30am

THE COLLECT

for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of
Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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.

ST PETER'S KIDS (SPK) & YOUTH GROUPS

We are delighted to welcome children and families to St Peter's on Sunday mornings.

Registration takes place in church from 10:15am.

Children stay in church for the first part of the service. At the appropriate point, parents and carers should take their children down to the Hall and check them in with the SPK team.

- **PARENT-LED CRÈCHE** – for pre-school children, meeting in the Lounge. Parents/carers remain with their children.
- **SEEKERS** – for children in Reception to Year 2.
- **DIGGERS** – for children in Years 3 to 6.

At the end of the service, please return to the Hall to check your child out and collect them. *Once a child has been checked out, responsibility for their supervision returns to their parent or carer.*

Our **SPARK** (Years 7-9) & **IGNITE** (Year 10+) groups are currently paused while we review provision for older children and young people. All are very welcome to remain in church throughout the service.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Mark Wallace, Vicar of St Peter's

"BEHOLD OUR GOD"

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice;
all creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God seated on His throne;

come, let us adore Him!

Behold our King! Nothing can compare;

come, let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One Who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Behold our God...

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave;
Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign!

Behold our God...

J, M & R Baird & S Altrogge, © 2011 Sovereign Grace Worship

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1.8-9

**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.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BIBLE READING: Acts 14.8-20

page 923; read by Margaret Holden

At the end of the reading...

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AT THE HEART OF GOD'S WORD

"turn from these vain things to a living God"
(Acts 14:15)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* Church, [** ie universal/worldwide*]
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

"BEHOLD THE LAMB"

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us – and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace -
around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
torn for you – eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love -
around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you – drink and remember
he drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace -
around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond – and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven -
around the table of the King.

Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend, © 2007, Thankyou Music

HOLY COMMUNION

The Comfortable Words

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11.28*

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish
but have eternal life. *John 3.16*

Here is a trustworthy saying
that deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1.15*

If anybody sins,
we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 2.1-2

The Prayer of Humble Access

**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.**

Communion Prayers

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we thank you that in your tender mercy
you gave your only Son Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;
he made there a full atonement
for the sins of the whole world,
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself.

He instituted,
and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death
until he comes again.

In the same night that he was betrayed,
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."**

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." Amen.**

The Administration of Communion

*The president and people receive communion, and
the communicant replies:*

Amen.

The Prayer after Communion

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*As we start to sing the next hymn,
parents/carers are invited to take children
in Seekers and Diggers to the Hall
and check them in with the SPK team.*

The Parent-Led Crèche is also available in the Lounge.

"HIS GLORY AND MY GOOD"

I have seen my Father's glory
revealed in Jesus Christ,
and the more that I behold Him
the more He satisfies.
When I gaze upon His beauty,
when I see Him as I should,
then my eyes are lifted upward
for His glory and my good.

There is hope in every trial,
for I can trust the Lord.
He will turn my heart towards Him,
and help me bear the thorn;
so in faith I follow Jesus
on the road not understood,
for I know that He is working
for His glory and my good.

*To our God be the glory,
to our God be praise,
He alone, the name above all names!
I will boast ever only in the Lord my God,
for I know His glory is my good.*

See the open arms of Jesus
upon the cross that day:
what they understood as weakness
deserves my every praise.
For the charge that was against me,
it was nailed into the wood.

Yes, I know that He has saved me
for His glory and my good.

To our God be the glory...

Would I gladly be made nothing
that Christ would be made more?
Would I seek the only kingdom
that far outweighs them all?
I will stand before my Father
where the faithful saints have stood,
and with joy my heart shall praise Him
for His glory and my good.
And with joy my heart shall praise Him
for His glory and my good.

To our God be the glory...

[repeat chorus, and repeat last line]

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

led by Richard Lawn

to finish with 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.**

"O LORD MY GOD"

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:
Then sings my soul...

And 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;
Then sings my soul...

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!"
Then sings my soul...

Stuart Hine, © 1953, Thankyou Music

THE SERMON

preacher: Rev Stuart Hull

"CHRIST, OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH"

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.
O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:
Christ, our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?
O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:
Christ, our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.
O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:
Christ, our hope in life and death.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:

*Christ, our hope in life and death.
Now and ever we confess:
Christ, our hope in life and death.*

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THE CONCLUSION

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Please do be seated.

Refreshments will be brought to you in the pews.

*Alternatively, refreshments are also being made
available in the Church Hall.*

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