

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion



Celebrating the
800th Anniversary of St. Francis

Sunday 4th October 2026

Mass Setting: St Thomas (D. Thorne)

Presiding: Canon Simon Stokes

Supported by young people

Guest Preacher: Rev Nigel Lacey

Celebrating 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi

Theme:

Praise God with all creation • Live simply • Make peace •
Care for the earth

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

(Please remain seated)

Today we gather as God's family - children, young people and adults together - to celebrate 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi. Francis followed Jesus with joy, simplicity and peace. He saw every creature as a brother or sister, and he taught the Church to praise God with the whole of creation.

OPENING PRAYER

Most High and loving God, you filled St Francis with wonder at your creation and love for every person. Open our eyes to see your goodness, open our ears to hear the cry of the earth and the poor, and open our hands to share your peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 532 All creatures of our God and King

Omit * verses 5 & 6

***1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us sing:***

Alleluia, alleluia!

***Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!***

***Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***4 Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

*7 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

WILLIAM HENRY DRAPER (1855-1933)

Based on St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: God made the sun and moon, the sea and sky, the animals and plants, and every person here.

All: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Please sit or kneel

Saying sorry, being forgiven

St Francis loved Jesus by loving the poor, making peace, and praising God with all creation. We come to God now, asking forgiveness for the times we have not lived in that way.

Leader: For the times we have been proud instead of humble:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the times we have chosen comfort over kindness, and forgotten those who are poor or in need:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For the times we have damaged your creation, wasted its gifts, or failed to live gently on the earth:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of mercy forgive us, renew us in the joy of the Gospel, and send us out, with St Francis, to be people of peace, simplicity and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Sung to 'Ode to Joy'. Please stand if you are able.

***Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those who love you well;
on the earth let all your people speak your grace, your
wonders tell. Lord, we praise you for your glory, mighty
Father, heaven's king; hear our joyful adoration and accept
the thanks we bring.***

***Only Son of God the Father, Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated - for your mercy, Lord, we
pray. Jesus Christ, most high and holy, Saviour, you are God
alone in the glory of the Father with the Spirit: Three-in-One!***

COLLECT

Most High, glorious God,
you called your servant Francis
to follow Jesus in poverty, humility and joy:
help us, with children and adults together,
to delight in your whole creation, to serve the poor,
and to become makers of peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

All age talk Rev Nigel Lacey

NEW TESTAMENT READING Galatians 6: 14-18

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule - to the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN I am a new creation (In the Pew Sheet)

***I Am a New creation,
no more in condemnation,
here in the Grace of God, I stand.***

***My heart is overflowing,
my love just keeps on growing,
here in the grace of God, I stand.***

***And I will praise You, Lord,
Yes, I will praise You, Lord,
and I will sing of all that You have done.***

***A Joy that knows no limit,
a lightness in my spirit
here in the grace of God, I stand.***

***I Am a New creation,
no more in condemnation,
here in the Grace of God, I stand.***

***My heart is overflowing,
my love just keeps on growing,
here in the grace of God, I stand.***

***And I will praise You, Lord,
Yes, I will praise You, Lord,
and I will sing of all that You have done.***

***A Joy that knows no limit,
a lightness in my spirit
here in the grace of God, I stand.***

Songwriters: Dave Bilbrough. For non-commercial use only.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 11: 25-30

Please stand if you are able.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON: Rev Nigel Lacey

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand if you are able.

Roo: We believe in God the Father, who made the world and loves all that he has made.

All: We believe and trust in God.

Roo: We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, who was born among us, lived simply, welcomed the poor, died on the cross and rose again.

All: We believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

Roo: We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the Church, fills us with joy, and sends us to make peace and care for creation.

All: We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

Roo: This is our faith, the faith of the Church.

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

Let us pray to God, with St Francis and all the saints, for the Church and for the world.

Roo: For the Church: that we may follow Jesus with joy and simplicity.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Roo: For the world: for places of war, poverty and fear, and for all who work for peace.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Roo: For creation: for animals, plants, rivers, seas and skies, and for courage to care for the earth.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Roo: For this community: for children, young people, families, neighbours and all who feel alone.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Roo: For those who are sick, sad or in need, and for those who care for them. For those who have died and those who mourn.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

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

Notices and time of sharing

THE PEACE

Please stand if you are able.

Francis greeted everyone with the words, "May the Lord give you peace." God has called us to live in light and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 656 He's got the whole world in his hands

(During the offertory hymn the bread and wine and collection are brought to the altar)

***1 He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***2 He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***3 He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

**** 4 He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***5 He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

***6 He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.***

African-American traditional song

With this bread that we bring,
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring,
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body, wine for his blood, gifts from God to his table
we bring.
We shall remember Jesus.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please sit. The choir may remain standing.

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.

It is right to praise you, loving God, because you made the whole world and called it good. You made light and water, hills and trees, birds and animals, and people of every age. You sent Jesus to show us how to love, to welcome the little ones, to heal the broken, to forgive sinners and to make peace.

On the night before he died, Jesus shared supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



After supper he took the cup, gave thanks and said, "This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."



So, with Francis and Clare, with angels and saints, and with all creation, we sing your praise:

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.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that we may receive the life of Christ and become his body in the world. Help us to live simply, love generously, make peace boldly, and care tenderly for all you have made.

Through Jesus, with Jesus, and in Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, loving Father, now and for ever. Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As God's children, and as brothers and sisters with all creation, we pray for daily bread, forgiveness, peace and the coming of God's kingdom. So, with confidence and joy, 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 forever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life.
And that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Agnus Dei

***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.***

Come to this table because Jesus loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front.

An anthem may be sung by the choir and a hymn may be sung during 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.

Anthem: Loving Shepherd of thy sheep - Ledger

HYMN 725 Make me a channel of your peace

***1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred
let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt,
true faith in you.***

***Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.***

***2 Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life,
let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.***

***Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul***

***3 Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving of ourselves that we receive
And in dying
that we're born to eternal life.***

SEBASTIAN TEMPLE (1928-1997)

from a prayer attributed to St FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,
you have fed us at your table
and made us one family in Christ.
Send us out with the joy of St Francis:
to praise you with all creation,
to serve those in need,
and to walk gently on the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving prayer

**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.**

HYMN 690 Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice declares it

*Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
For by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!
Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise him with Alleluias, for Jesus is Lord.*

*Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
In flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,
Yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.
Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise him with Alleluias, for Jesus is Lord.*

*Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror
From death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit
To show by works of power that Jesus is Lord!
Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise him with Alleluias, for Jesus is Lord.*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

May God the Father,
maker of heaven and earth, fill you with wonder and gratitude.
May Jesus Christ, poor and humble, lead you in paths of peace.
May the Holy Spirit give you courage to love every neighbour and
care for all creation. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you,
upon those you love, pray for and care for, now and for evermore.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

