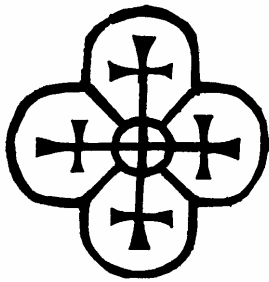
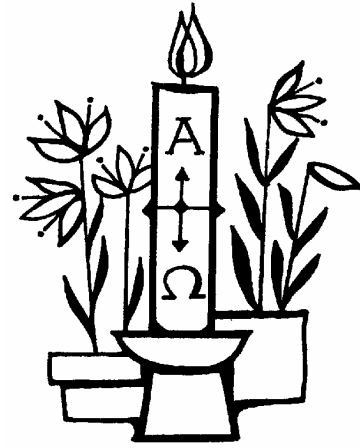


# The Chase Benefice



The Chase  
Benefice

Please do not take this booklet away



The Parish  
Eucharist

*in the Season of Easter*

## A word of welcome ...

We hope you will feel very welcome at our Church. This booklet contains all you need (apart from the hymns) to be able to join in the service fully. You will find the text of the service on the right-hand pages. On the left-hand pages we have printed some material in blue that we hope will help you deepen your reflection upon the service and the season of Easter.

If you are a communicant member of another church you are warmly invited to share in Communion with us. If you are not confirmed, may we urge you to consider it, and (if you live in the area) to have a word with the priest about what is involved?

Children are always welcome in our Church. At the back of the Church there are some activity bags, containing quiet toys and colouring books – please help yourself! We want you to enjoy worship so please don't worry if the children make a noise.

It is our practice, before the service begins, and especially after the candles have been lit, to keep the church as quiet and still as possible so that everyone can prepare to worship God 'in spirit and in truth'. Please pray for all involved in leading our worship, and for those sitting near you. You may like to use the 'Prayers before worship' on the following pages.

Easter is the greatest of all the Christian festivals. It celebrates the love of God for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It speaks to us of God doing a new and unexpected thing; of new life bursting from the tomb. May you experience again for yourself the power of God's love in your heart as God bursts into life in you. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life;  
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors through thy  
deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:*

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*E. L. Budry*

Material for this booklet has been taken from the following sources:

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers of the Church of England*, © The Archbishops' Council;

*Candles and Kingfishers* © Ann Lewin, 1997;

other devotional texts taken from

*The Hallowing of Time: Volume 2* © Carol Wilkinson 1998

## Order One

### *The people and the priest*

- ¶ greet each other in the Lord's name
- ¶ confess their sins and are assured of God's forgiveness
- ¶ keep silence and pray a Collect
- ¶ proclaim and respond to the word of God
- ¶ pray for the Church and the world
- ¶ exchange the Peace
- ¶ prepare the Table
- ¶ pray the Eucharistic Prayer
- ¶ break the Bread
- ¶ receive Communion
- ¶ depart with God's blessing.

*Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your spirit and life.*

*Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus! Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as you shine...*

*Let us preach you without preaching, not by words but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love of our hearts near to you.*

John Henry Newman

### *Entrance*

*Pause at the threshold  
Of the sacred space,  
Bow low.  
Prepare for fresh  
Encounter  
With the Holy One.*

Ann Lewin

*Before the Service – Speak to God  
During the Service – Let God speak to you  
After the Service – Speak to one another*

O Lord our God  
grant us the grace  
to desire thee with our whole heart;  
that so desiring thee we may seek to find thee,  
and so finding thee we may love thee,  
and loving thee may hate those sins  
from which thou hast redeemed us;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Anselm

God of life,  
forgive our denial of life,  
our destruction of its hopes,  
our denial of its needs,  
our distorting of its possibilities.  
Fill us with your Spirit of life,  
that we might be people of life,  
servants of life, encouragers of life,  
signs of Christ, the life of the world,  
in his name we pray. Amen.

The Baptist Church

O God, you have made us for yourself,  
and against your longing there is no defence.  
Mark us with your love,  
and release in us a passion for your justice  
in our disfigured world;  
that we may turn from our guilt and face you,  
our hearts desire. Amen.

Janet Morley

Do not cling. . .  
Let me be bigger than your  
Heart can hold.  
Rise with me to a  
Larger vision.

Ann Lewin

*The president says the Post Communion prayer, then all say*

**All** Faithful God,  
in baptism you have adopted us  
as your children,  
made us members of the body of Christ  
and chosen us as inheritors  
of your kingdom:  
we thank you that in this Eucharist  
you renew your promises within us,  
empower us by your Spirit  
to witness and to serve,  
and send us out as disciples of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## The Dismissal

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*A hymn may be sung.*

*The president gives a blessing and the service ends with*

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**All** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*The ministers leave the Church.*

*After the service please do stay and have a chat. If you are new please introduce yourself to the Priest or to the Churchwardens. They will introduce you to other people and they can give you more information about our Church.*

*There are prayers overleaf which you might like to use before you leave.*

*We hope that you have enjoyed being with us this morning and will come again.*

### *The Shape of Baptism: The Rite of Christian Initiation*

*To know Christ sacramentally only in terms of bread and wine is to know him only partially, in the dining room as host and guest. It is a valid enough knowledge, but its ultimate weakness when isolated is that it is perhaps too civil... However elegant the knowledge of the dining room may be, it begins in the soil, in the barnyard, in the slaughterhouse; amid the quiet violence of the garden, strangled cries, and fat spitting in the pan. Table manners depend on something's having been grabbed by the throat. A knowledge that ignores these dark and murderous human gestures is losing its grip on the human condition.*

Aidan Kavanagh

*At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.  
The president may say*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

### **The Greeting**

*The president greets the people.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The president welcomes the people and the children leave if there is a crèche or Junior Church.*

### **Prayer of Preparation**

*This prayer is said*

**All 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**

*A minister invites the people to confess using these or similar words*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in  
darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our  
sins.

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

*John 11:25*

### ***Follow the Lamb***

*We have followed him, the Lamb,  
from his star-bright night of birth  
across the plains of Palestine  
to Golgotha: and down,  
down into Saturn's night of death.  
Here at the edge of darkness do we stand,  
halt before the grave. (Whose heart  
does not halt here?) – Yet,  
see how the Lamb is laid within the tomb,  
see how they wind him, white, in linen bands:  
gaze upon his silent fallen form,  
gaze: do not flee the face of death.  
Let sorrow softly soften.  
The Lamb but sweetly waits  
until our shadowed inward eyes,  
grown quiet,  
gently waken, bathed  
in Resurrection's radiant dawn.  
See how the way of Love leads on!*

*Melissa Kay*

*All may say*

**All** Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs  
from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us with the precious  
body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of  
Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

*Communicant members of all Christian churches are  
welcome to receive the sacrament.*

*If you are not confirmed or do not wish to receive the  
sacrament please come for a blessing and kneel with your  
hands behind your back.*

*These words of distribution may be used*

The bread of heaven in Christ Jesus.  
The cup of life in Christ Jesus.

*Each communicant replies **Amen**. Please wait until the  
person on your left has received the chalice before leaving  
the altar.*

*After all have received, silence is kept.*

*It seems to me to be dishonest to talk about the resurrection in a way that makes it look like an easy excuse for getting round the reality of biological death. It is a way – in my view the only way – of accepting the absurdity of death with the maximum of freedom. The implacable violence of death makes my life a destiny. The hope of the resurrection makes my life freedom.*

Jacques LeClercq

*No resurrection. No Christianity.*

Michael Ramsay

### ***The Shape of Baptism***

*Christians are not born but made. They do not just wander in off the streets either. They are honed down by the teaching and discipline of the catechumenate until their metal is tough, resilient, sharp and glowing. The 'enlightenment' of baptism is not a flickering flame but a burst of God's glory in those whose capacities to receive it have been expanded to their utmost.*

Aidan Kavanagh

*Either*

**All** 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.**

*Or*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
 we come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
 and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,  
 and not by the power of your resurrection.  
 In your mercy, forgive us.

**All** Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
 as faithless and not believing.  
 In your mercy, forgive us.

**All** Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,  
 and doubted our home in heaven.  
 In your mercy, forgive us.

**All** Lord, hear us and help us  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The president declares God's forgiveness.*

*Do you wish to know my meaning?  
Then lie down in the Fire.  
See and taste the flowing Godhead  
through your being.  
Feel the Holy Spirit moving and  
compelling  
you within the flowing Fire and  
Light of God.*

*Mechtild of Magdeburg*

*One the strain that lips of thousands  
Lift as from the heart of one:  
One the conflict, one the peril,  
One the march in God begun:  
One the gladness of rejoicing  
On the far eternal shore,  
Where the one almighty Father  
Reigns in love for evermore.*

*Bishop Christopher Wordsworth*

**All** 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.

*or*

**All** 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.

### **Giving of Communion**

*The president says one of these invitations to communion*

Alleluia. Christ our passover  
is sacrificed for us.

**All** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*or*

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**All** Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.



*The Gloria may be said or sung*

**All** 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.

### The Collect

*We keep a moment of silence to collect our thoughts and concerns before the president says the Collect, which reflects a theme of the season. All respond*

**All** Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Word

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### Readings

*We sit for the readings from Scripture. At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

*A hymn or a Psalm is sung. We turn to face the minister for the Gospel of the Day.*

### At Communion

*Whether I kneel or stand or sit in prayer,  
I am not caught in time nor held in space,  
but thrust beyond this posture I am where  
time and eternity come face to face;  
infinity and space meet in this place  
where crossbar and high upright hold the one  
in agony and in all Love's embrace.  
The power in helplessness that was begun  
when all the brilliance of the flaming sun  
contained itself in the confines of a child  
now comes to me in strange action done  
in mystery. Break me, break space, O wild  
and lovely power. Break me: thus I am dead,  
and resurrected now in wine and bread.*

Madeleine L'Engle

*The Christian journey through life is rather like pole-vaulting – blindfold. First they blindfold you, then you are allowed to select a pole. Armed with what you consider is a strong and suitable implement, you set off running in what you hope is the right direction. Sometimes you are aware that you are running with others, and you are carried along by their shouts and encouragement. Often you feel as though you are running alone. When you think about the leap you will eventually have to make, doubts and questions come into your mind. Will you be able to reach the bar? Has someone moved it!? Or will there be a bar at all? Will there be a soft landing? – Which is, I suppose, where faith comes in.*

Carol Wilkinson

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly, either*

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*or*

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

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

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken.*

**Ascension**

*O risen Saviour, bid me rise with you  
and seek those things which are above;  
not only seek, but set my whole heart  
upon them.*

*You are in heaven, ever raising lives to yourself;  
O, by your grave,  
may mine be making that ascent  
not in dream, but in truth,  
now, tomorrow, always.*

*Daily in spirit, in your Holy Spirit,  
let me behold you on the throne of God,  
O King reigning in holiness,  
O Conqueror of all evil,  
O Majesty of Love,*

*very God and very Man,  
of glory unimaginable and eternal,  
in whom all hope is sure.*

*So, longing for your courts,  
let me rise, ascend, seek;  
finding in the nearer light of your countenance  
higher and yet higher things  
to love, to do, to attain.*

*Eric Milner-White*

*An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading with these  
or other suitable words*

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

**All Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*We sit for the Sermon, after which there is a brief silence.  
On Sundays and Principal Holy Days we then stand to  
affirm our faith.*

**Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe. Amen.**

*I have no wit, no words, no tears;  
My heart within me like a stone  
Is numbed too much for hopes or fears;  
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;  
I lift mine eyes, but dimmed with grief  
No everlasting hills I see;  
My life is fading like a leaf  
O Jesus, quicken me.*

*My life is like a faded leaf,  
My harvest dwindled to a husk;  
Truly my life is void and brief  
And tedious in the barren dusk;  
My life is like a frozen thing,  
No bud or greenness can I see:  
Yet rise it shall – the sap of Spring;  
O Jesus, rise in me.*

*My life is like a broken bowl,  
A broken bowl that cannot hold  
One drop of water for my soul  
Or cordial in the searching cold;  
Cast in the fire the perished thing,  
Melt and remould it, till it be  
A royal cup for him my King:  
O Jesus, drink of me.*

Christina Rossetti

*The president says*

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts  
and all respond*

**All 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.]**

*The president recalls the Last Supper, and one of these  
acclamations may be used*

[Great is the mystery of faith:]

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

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

*Or the following responses may be made*

This is his/our story

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hope and Suffering**

*I need to point out that God was first experienced by the Israelites in the event of the Exodus. That was how they came into contact with God. They were at the time just a rabble of slaves. They did not encounter God in some religious event such as sacrifice or at worship. God was revealed in helping them to escape from bondage... And when God redeemed us in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, it was not through a religious event. No, it was through an act of execution, used against common criminals.*

Desmond Tutu

*At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King:  
Who hath washed us in the tide  
Flowing from his pierced side;  
Praise we him whose love divine  
Gives the guests his blood for wine,  
Gives his body for the feast,  
Love the Victim, Love the Priest.*

*Where the Paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Christ the Lamb whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, paschal bread!  
With sincerity and love  
Eat we manna from above.*

R. Campbell, (translator)

*We sit or kneel for the prayers. These responses may be used*

Jesus, Lord of life:

**All in your mercy hear us.**

or

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

or

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

And at the end

Lord of the Church,

**All hear our prayer,**

**and make us one in heart and mind**

**to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament** ———**The Peace**

*The president introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence, and then says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We may exchange the Peace with those around us by shaking hands.*

## *Song to the Holy Spirit*

*Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You blow like the wind  
in a thousand paddocks,  
Inside and outside the fences,  
You blow where you wish to blow.*

*Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the sun who shines  
on the little plant,  
You warm him gently, you give him life,  
You raise him up to become a tree  
with many leaves.*

*Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are as the mother eagle with her young,  
Holding them in peace under your feathers.  
On the highest mountain  
you have built your nest,  
Above the valley,  
above the storms of the world,  
Where no hunter ever comes.*

*Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the kind of fire  
who does not cease to burn,  
Consuming us with flames of love and peace,  
Driving us out like sparks  
to set the world on fire.*

*Lord, Holy Spirit,  
In the love of friends  
you are building a new house,  
Heaven is with us when you are with us.  
You are singing your song  
In the hearts of the poor.  
Guide us, wound us, heal us.  
Bring us to the Father.*

James K. Baxter

## **Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*A hymn is sung, during which the altar is prepared and a collection may be taken. The gifts of bread and wine are brought from the people and placed upon the altar.*

*The following prayers may be used.*

Generous God,  
creator, redeemer, sustainer,  
at your table we present this money,  
symbol of the work you have given us to do;  
use it, use us,  
in the service of your world  
to the glory of your name.

**All Amen.**

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

**All Amen.**

*The president takes the bread and wine.*