

LIVERPOOL PARISH CHURCH

OUR LADY & ST NICHOLAS



OPEN TABLE
Come as you are



Liverpool Loves You

A celebration of inclusion in our city

Saturday 14 May 2022

You're more than welcome! We're so glad you're here.

Welcome to the parish of Our Lady and Saint Nicholas, the Parish Church of Liverpool. We are a Church of England parish in the Diocese of Liverpool. A church has stood on this site since the thirteenth century and the present church dates from just after the Second World War (although the tower originates from the early nineteenth century). Our parish covers most of the city centre and docks, including Lime Street, the Albert Dock and the 'Liverpool One' development. The Parish Church also serves the maritime, civic and business communities in the city, and today reaches out to the increasing residential population as well. We aim to be a place of sanctuary, prayer and worship for the whole of Liverpool. The Church is open every day, and you are welcome to drop in.

Today you are also more than welcome to celebrate with the Open Table Network, a growing partnership of communities across England & Wales which welcome and affirm people who are: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, & Asexual (LGBTQIA)+ as well as our families, friends, and anyone who wants to belong in an accepting, loving community. For more about Open Table and the growing network of communities across Merseyside and beyond, visit: www.opentable.lgbt.

Choir Introit

Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!
The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly:
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!
The church with Psalms must shout. No door can keep them out:
But above all, the heart Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing
Rector of Liverpool

The Gathering

Cate Jacobs, Open Table

Come in.

Come into this place
which we make holy by our presence.

Come in

with all your vulnerabilities and strengths,
fears and anxieties, loves and hopes.

For here you need not hide, nor pretend,
nor be anything other than who you are
and are called to be.

Come into this place,
where we can touch and be touched,
heal and be healed, forgive and be forgiven.

Come into this place,
where the ordinary is sanctified,
the human is celebrated,
the compassionate is expected.

Come into this place.

Together we make it a holy place.

- *Rebecca A Edmiston-Lange*

Hymn

Come as you are, that's how I want you.

Come as you are, feel quite at home.

Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;

come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.

No need to fear, love never ends.

Don't run away shamed and disheartened.

Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.

I came to bring peace, not to condemn.

Each time you fail to live by my promise,

why do you think I'd love you the less?

**Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.**

Words and Music: Deirdre Browne IBVM (b. 1936)

Call to worship

Cate: Gathered in this place,

All: we are the body of Christ.

The hands and feet,

All: the eyes and ears,

the heart and lungs –

All: all parts of the whole,

participating in the miraculous body.

All: Together we are a body that worships,

a body that sings,

All: a body that works,

a body that rests,

All: a body that rejoices

in the wonder of serving and loving God together.

We are the body of Christ,

All: gathered in this place. Thanks be to God!

Bible Reading: Isaiah 43:1-4

Councillor Harry Doyle

This Bible verse has been chosen to help fight homophobia, transphobia and biphobia. Most LGBT+ people are more used to the Bible being used against them, but these LGBT+ Christians draw on it for support. An Italian LGBT+ Christian Network chosen a particular Bible verse for use at vigils and other services to mark International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia on 17th May.

The Italian Christian network Progetto Gionata held an online poll to choose a Bible passage appropriate for this commemoration. The winning passage comes from the book of Isaiah:

‘Have no fear, for I have taken up your cause; naming you by your name, I have made you mine. Because of your value in my eyes, you have been honoured, and loved by me.’

Choir Psalm 96

0 SING unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his honour unto the heathen : and his wonders unto all people.

4 For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised : he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols : but it is the Lord that made the heavens.

6 Glory and worship are before him : power and honour are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people : ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.

8 Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name : bring presents, and come into his courts.

9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness : let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

10 Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King : and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the people righteously.

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it : then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.

13 For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth : and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

Glory be to the Father : and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Poem: Jesus at the gay bar

by trans Christian poet Jay Hulme

Cate Jacobs

He's here in the midst of it -
right at the centre of the dance floor,
robes hitched up to His knees
to make it easy to spin.

At some point in the evening
a boy will touch the hem of His robe
and beg to be healed, beg to be
anything other than this;
and He will reach His arms out,
sweat-damp, and weary from dance.

He'll cup this boy's face in His hand and say,
my beautiful child

*there is nothing in this heart of yours
that ever needs to be healed.*

Bible Reading: John 13:34-35

Cate Jacobs

‘A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.’

The Address

Kieran Bohan, Coordinator, Open Table Network

Choir Anthem

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of
the turtle is heard in our land;
The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good
smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Words: Song of Solomon 2.1-13

Music: Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)

Prayers and Anointing

Cate: It is our custom at Open Table that all are welcome to come forward to light a candle and to bring before God our prayers of love, hope, thanks and concern. We invite you to do this in silence as the choir leads a simple chant.

We also invite you to come and be anointed with fragrant oil.

Anointing is an ancient ritual, practiced in many faiths.

In Christianity, it is used to denote blessing. As the cross is made upon us with the holy oil, we know that we are sacred and loved by God.

Whether you have much, little or no faith, all are welcome.

Please come forward to light a candle in prayer, and to be anointed, if you wish.

During this period of prayer we sing the following:

**Take, O take me as I am,
Summon out what I shall be.
Set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.**

Words and Music: John Bell (b.1949)

At the end of the prayers we join together in the Lord's Prayer

Cate: Formed by divine wisdom and following the example of Jesus,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.**

Hymn

*During the hymn a collection will be taken for the work of Liverpool Parish
Church and the Open Table Network*

**You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.
*Be not afraid, I go before you always.***

Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

**If you pass through raging waters in the sea,
you shall not drown.**

**If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.**

Be not afraid...

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.

**Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked men insult and hate you all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you!**

Be not afraid...

Words and Music: Bob Dufford SJ (b. 1943)

A statement from the Presidents of Churches Together in Merseyside

Read by the Right Reverend Beverley Mason, Bishop of Warrington

The Blessing

The Bishop of Warrington

May the outrageous welcome of the Father accept us for who we are;
may the incarnation of the Word touch and hold us close;
may the wandering of the Spirit help us risk ourselves for love;
and may the blessing of God: Life Giver, Pain Bearer, Love Maker
Come down upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen**

Steven Shakespeare (adapted)

St Nicholas' Singers directed by Stuart Keen
Organist: Ian Wells

*Hymns and other texts are reproduced under CCL licence number 556443
or One License licence number A-632593.*