Preparing for Worship

Welcome to this audio broadcast service from Christ Church. Although we are still unable to meet together for worship, the central truth of Christian faith remains: Christ is the Lord and is the same yesterday, today and forever. So it’s right that we continue to worship, to praise God, and to pray for the healing of the world and its people; our worship does not ignore pain, grief and need, but expresses our hope in God.

Eucharist this morning is celebrated by the Revd Canon Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History and our preacher is Canon Carol Harrison, the Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity. Music has been recorded by our Lay Clerks in their homes, by boys from the Cathedral School before the closure of schools, by our Cathedral Choir in previous years, and by our Sub-Organist, Benjamin Sheen. Responses are made by voices from around the Cathedral community, recorded in their homes and with their families.

Entering into worship through audio broadcast is more familiar to some of us than to others. If this is new to you, try to actively share in the service, not just have it on in the background; and join in the words in bold. Find a comfortable position that helps you to pray, and to receive the love of God in your heart. As we listen, we are united in worship and prayer despite the distance between us. Please continue to pray for one another, as we at Christ Church continue to pray for you.

May God bless you as we worship together.

You can find our Sunday worship, alongside other resources for worshipping at home, at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship

Music before the service

Praeludium in C minor, Felix Mendelssohn

recorded by the Sub-Organist
Benjamin Sheen
The Gathering

President    In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All            Amen.

President    The Lord be with you
All              and also with you.

The President welcomes the congregation.

Confession

You may like to adopt a prayer posture such as sitting with your head bowed, as we remember our brokenness and call to mind our sins.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All    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.
Kyrie

Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe, eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

President Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Glory to God in the highest, Et in terra pax and peace to his people on earth. hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, Lord God, heavenly King, adoramus te, glorificamus te. almighty God and Father, Gratias agimus tibi we worship you, we give you thanks, propter magnam gloriam tuam, we praise you for your glory. Domine Deus, Rex cœlestis, Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Filius Patris, Lord God, Lamb of God, qui tollis peccata mundi, you take away the sin of the world: miserere nobis. have mercy on us;

Qui tollis peccata mundi, you are seated suscipe deprecationem nostram. at the right hand of the Father: Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, receive our prayer. miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus;  For you alone are the Holy One,  
tu solus Dominus;  you alone are the Lord,  
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,  you alone are the Most High,  
cum Sancto Spiritu  Jesus Christ,  
in gloria Dei Patris.  with the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.  in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

The Collect

President    Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President    O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you, 
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
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.  

All    Amen.
The Liturgy of the Word

Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading
Romans 5:1–8 (NRSV)
read by Richard Murray

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia. Proclaim the good news, says the Lord: the kingdom of heaven has come near. Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.”’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection
Canon Harrison

You can find the text of the reflection at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship.

After the reflection, we keep silence together for a few moments before affirming our faith together in the words of the Creed – words which have been said across the world for over fifteen hundred years in times of sorrow and of joy.
The Nicene Creed

All

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
his suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession
led by the Succentor.

Minister Let us pray.

You may like to adopt a prayer posture with your hands open and lifted up to God as we hold out all the prayers of our hearts to him.

Minister Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

The prayers end with:

Minister Merciful Father,
All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.
The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

President The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times, it may seem strange to ‘share the Peace.’ But peace is from the heart and from God. God’s peace in the Spirit moves among us and unites us, physically distanced yet one in the Body of Christ.
King of glory, King of peace,
I will love Thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing Thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring Thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

Sev’n whole days, not one in sev’n,
I will praise Thee;
in my heart, though not in heav’n,
I can raise Thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enroll Thee:
e’en eternity’s too short
to extol Thee.

**Words:** George Herbert (1593–1633)
**Music:** Gwalchmai, JD Jones (1827–1870)
Preparation of the Table

President

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President

The Lord be with you

All

and also with you.

President

Lift up your hearts.

All

We lift them to the Lord.

President

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give thanks and praise.

President

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing::
Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth: pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

President
Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.
Deacon               Great is the mystery of faith.
All                  Christ has died.
                      Christ is risen.
                      Christ will come again.

President            Accept through him, our great high priest,
                      this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
                      and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
                      in the presence of your divine majesty,
                      renew us by your Spirit,
                      inspire us with your love
                      and unite us in the body of your Son,
                      Jesus Christ our Lord.

                      Through him, and with him, and in him,
                      in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
                      with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
                      we worship you, Father almighty,
                      in songs of everlasting praise:

All                  Blessing and honour and glory and power
                      be yours for ever and ever.
                      Amen.
The Lord’s Prayer

President
In times of hope, in times of trouble,
in times of sorrow, in times of praise,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All
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.

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

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.
Invitation to Communion

President

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

Even months into the suspension of public worship, the fact that we cannot receive bread and wine together may still be strange, painful, or alienating. Yet, alone or isolated, alienated or sorrowful as we are, Jesus comes to meet us. Jesus invites us to receive him in our hearts by faith; to unite our prayers and our wills with his; and to rest in his perfect and eternal love.

There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is true desire, lively faith and genuine love. So you are invited to come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to close your eyes, or to look at a picture; to pause the recording, or to listen to the music; to keep silence, or to pray one of the following prayers:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to thee. And since I can not now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate thee from me. May I live and die in thy love. Amen.

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence. Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.
As we rest in the presence of Christ all around us, the Agnus Dei is sung.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

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.

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Lord,
you give yourself to us
and we have received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
The Dismissal

Blessing

President

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All

Thanks be to God.

Music after the service

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr, Georg Bohm

recorded by the Sub-Organist

Benjamin Sheen
During these difficult times, please be assured that the prayers of the clergy and people of Christ Church continue. Please let us know if we can pray for you, or if you need our support. You are warmly invited to continue to participate in our community worship, prayer and spiritual life, whether you are a longstanding member of our congregations or new to us. You can find resources for prayer and contact details at:

www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedralblog
@chchcathedralox

Online worship resources from Christ Church Cathedral

The Cathedral blog contains an archive of sermons and services, alongside a daily reflection on a Psalm and a weekly reflection on a piece of music. On Sundays, there is a weekly recorded service available at 9am and an additional standalone sermon by one of the canons, on the readings of the day, available at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship where you can also download a booklet of prayers for use at home, a recording of Compline, and other resources.
Prayer for the Week

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Frideswide, pray for us. May all the saints pray for us.

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