Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 26 July 2020
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 Dean, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, and our preacher is the Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, Revd Canon Nigel Biggar. 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

A Verse
Thomas Tomkins

recorded by the Organist
Steven Grahl
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.
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex cœlestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

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.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus; 
tu solus Dominus; 
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, 
cum Sancto Spiritu 
in gloria Dei Patris. 
Amen.

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**

*President* Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

*President* Lord of all power and might, 
the author and giver of all good things: 
graft in our hearts the love of your name, 
increase in us true religion, 
nourish us with all goodness, 
and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 
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.
A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.
Deacon    Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
All          Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’

He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’

‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

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

Reflection
Canon Biggar

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;
he 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 Archdeacon*

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.
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.
Hymn
recorded by The Cathedral Singers of Christ Church
Convivium Records, 2013

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
how he loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore;
how he watches o’er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
how for them he intercedeth,
watcheth o’er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev’ry love the best:
‘tis an ocean vast of blessing,
‘tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
‘Tis a heav’n of heav’ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee.

WORDS: S Trevor Francis (1834–1925)
MUSIC: Ebenezer, Thomas John Williams (1869–1944)

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  
Hom, hom, hom
Dominus Deus Sabaoth:  
Lord God of hosts:
pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua.  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Benedictus qui venit  
Blessed is he who comes
in nomine Domini.  
in the name of the Lord.
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.

It may still feel strange, painful, or alienating to listen to this service in the knowledge that we cannot receive bread and wine together. 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

A Fantasy
Thomas Tomkins

recorded by the Organist
Steven Grahl
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 website 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

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

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