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 College Chaplain, the Revd Clare Hayns, and our preacher is the Dean, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy. 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/lineworship

Music before the service

Andante religioso
from Sonata in B-flat major
Op. 65, no. 4
Felix Mendelssohn
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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,  Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Deus Pater omnipotens.  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.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,  Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  Lord God, Lamb of God,
Filius Patris,  you take away the sin of the world:
quii tollis peccata mundi,  have mercy on us;
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  you are seated
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  at the right hand of the Father:
miserere nobis.
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        O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
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 7:15–25a (NRSV)
read by Karen Gadd

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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 said to the crowd, ‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of taxCollectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, 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.’

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

Reflection  The Dean

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 Canon Harrison

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.
Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

WORDS: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–92)
MUSIC: Repton, Arr. from the oratorio Judith by C H H Parry (1848–1918)

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.
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,
holly 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

Allegro con brio
from Sonata in B-flat major
Op. 65, no. 4
Felix Mendelssohn

featuring Steven Grahl, Benjamin Sheen,
Simon Hogan, and Ben Collyer
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.
Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:  
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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