Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

Third Sunday of Easter
26 April 2020
Preparing for Worship

In this season of Easter, falling in the middle of pandemic and lockdown, much in our everyday lives has changed and is still changing. But the central truth of Christian faith remains the same: Christ, risen, ascended and glorified, is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, although we cannot meet to celebrate it, we know that Christ is risen. Although we may find it hard to rejoice, the joy of the Resurrection fills the universe. And although we are many, physically distanced and isolated, we are one body. We worship our risen Lord Jesus, not ignoring the pain of many and the needs of the world, but because we trust that Christ’s victory over death gives hope for every situation.

Eucharist this morning is celebrated by the Revd Canon Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History. The preacher is the Diocesan Canon Precentor, the Revd Canon Dr Grant Bayliss. Responses are made by voices from around the Cathedral community, recorded in their homes and with their families. Music is from archive recordings of the Cathedral Choir, or recorded by our Lay Clerks and our Organist, Professor Steven Grahl, in their homes. The setting is the sixteenth-century chant, *Missa de angelis*.

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 look at the images we offer or perhaps images of your own. Join in the words in bold. You may not want to stand or kneel as usual but find a comfortable position that helps you to pray, and to receive the love of God in your heart.

It may still feel strange and sad to meet ‘virtually’ for worship, unable to gather in our cathedral for our familiar pattern of prayer. Yet 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 the love of the risen Christ meet all of you to empower and strengthen and sustain you; and may God bless you as we worship him together.

You can find our Sunday worship, alongside other resources for worshipping at home, at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship
In the name of the Father, 
and of the Son, 
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you 
and also with you.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! 
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The President welcomes the congregation.

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil 
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

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.

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  
Christe eleison  
Kyrie eleison  

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
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

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, benedicitus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te,  
gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam,  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.

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.

Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe,  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  
Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis;  
qui tollis peccata mundi,

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;
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

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

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

President Let us pray.
Silence is kept.
President Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples
with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
All Amen.
The Liturgy of the Word

Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
read by Robin Birch


Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading
read by Revd Canon Graham Ward,
Regius Professor of Divinity

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now on that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from
recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.
Reflection
The Diocesan Canon Precentor
The Revd Canon Dr Grant Bayliss

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 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 Carol Harrison,
Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity

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

Peace

President Jesus stood among his disciples and said ‘Peace be with you.’ Then they were glad when they saw the risen Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times when we are unable to touch those outside our immediate family, and in many cases not even them, and when we are unable to meet together as communities of God’s people, 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 members of the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, in isolation, mixed by their Director, James Potter

1 Jesus lives; thy terrors now Can, O death, no more appall us; Jesus lives: by this we know Thou, O grave, cannot enthrall us. Alleluia!

2 Jesus lives: henceforth is death But the gate to life immortal; This shall calm our trembling breath When we pass its gloomy portal. Alleluia!

3 Jesus lives! for us he died; then, alone to Jesus living, pure in heart may we abide, glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluia.

4 Jesus lives: our hearts know well Nought from us his love shall sever; Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell Tear us from his keeping ever. Alleluia!

5 Jesus lives: to him the throne Over all the world is given: May we go where he is gone, Rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia!

Words: tr. FE Cox (1812-1897) Music: St Albinus, HJ Gauntlett (1805-1876)
**Preparation of the Table**

*President*  
As we offer you these our gifts,  
with all that we have and all that we are,  
in the joy of Easter and in supplication for our world:  
may the light of your Love be seen in the darkness;  
the whispers of your healing be heard in empty streets;  
the flowers of your hope blossom in many hearts.

*All*  
*Amen.*

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

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

*All*  
Lift up your hearts.

*President*  
We lift them to the Lord.

*All*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*President*  
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father;  
for in his perfect love  
Jesus your Son gave himself up to death for us all;  
and in your perfect compassion  
you raised him from death for our salvation  
and made him shine like the sun with your radiance.

And although the light of Easter is veiled by darkness and the  
shouts of praise obscured by cries of pain,  
you bring your people back to your generous heart and promise  
that the risen Christ is with us on our way.
As we walk the path of suffering,
you draw us into the promise of new life;
as we weep for renewal
you restore in us the image of your glory;
as we cry out for healing and hope
you gather up our voices to join the angels’ song:

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.

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts:
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.

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.

President Jesus Christ is Lord.
All Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

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.
President: Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
All: **Let us feed on him in our hearts**
by faith, with thanksgiving.

Even several weeks 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, the risen 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 in order to find stillness; to empty your mind, or to pray quietly. As we rest in the presence of Christ all around us, the Agnus Dei is sung.

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.
You may also like 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._

**Prayer after Communion**

*President* Let us pray.

A time of silent prayer is kept.

*All* You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.
The Dismissal

Blessing

President

May Christ the risen Lord,
who walked with the disciples on the road
and revealed himself in Scripture and in bread,
meet you, walk with you, and reveal himself to you,
as the Word of Life, broken for his people;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

All

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Music before and after the service

Prelude and Fugue in D (BWV 850)

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

recorded by the Organist, Professor Steven Grahl, at home.
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

You can find all our archive of sermons and services on the Cathedral blog: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedralblog.

We offer a daily reflection on a Psalm and a weekly reflection on a piece of music on our blog.

On Sundays, there is a weekly recorded service available at 9 am and an additional standalone sermon by one of the canons, on the readings of the day, available at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship.

There is a booklet of prayers for use at home, a recording of the service of Compline, and other prayer resources on the Online Worship webpage.
Prayer for the Week

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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