Sixth Sunday of Easter
Eucharist with Farewell to the Sub Dean
Revd Canon Edmund Newey
17 May 2020
Preparing for Worship

Today as we gather in worship, we say goodbye to our Sub Dean, the Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey, after nearly seven years at Christ Church. Edmund presides and preaches this morning, and at the end of the service the Dean and Chapter thank him for his ministry here and bless him for all that lies ahead.

Edmund writes:

*It is not mere convention if I say that it has been a privilege to serve as Sub Dean of Christ Church for the past seven years. This House of Christ and the people who work, worship, and volunteer here are very special and I am deeply grateful for the ministry we have shared.*

*I came to Christ Church after thirteen years as a parish priest. Cathedrals – and this one in particular – are not parishes, nor are they meant to be; but I hope that my leadership here has been 'parochial' in the best sense: rooted, that is, in the deep discernment of God's call to us here.*

*It is easy to misread Christ Church as a beautiful ornament on the margins of modern life. Yet at its best it is so much more than that: it is a burning bush, beckoning God's people to turn aside and marvel at the divine presence and call. Christ Church blesses people, changes them and sends them out to recognise, love and serve God wherever they are. Long may it continue to do so – as it has to me!*

The Mass setting is the sixteenth-century chant, *Missa lux et origo*, for the Easter season, recorded by Lay Clerks, Sub Organist Benjamin Sheen, and Organist, Professor Steven Grahl, in their homes.

It may still feel strange and sad to meet ‘virtually,’ yet, as we listen, we are united in worship and prayer despite the distance between us. 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. Please continue to pray for one another, as we at Christ Church continue to pray for you; and please pray especially for Edmund and his family as they move.

Music before the service

*Erstanden ist der heilge Christ (BWV 628)*

JS Bach (1685-1750)

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

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

The President welcomes the congregation.

Confession

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.

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

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

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

President   Let us pray.
Silence is kept.

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us
from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death
he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us
he may raise us to eternal joy;
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.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Reader       This is the word of the Lord.
All          Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia; Because I live, says the Lord, you will live also. Alleluia.

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

All  Glory to you, O Lord.

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All  Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection
The Sub 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.
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.
Minister Let us pray.

You may like to adopt a prayer posture with your eyes closed, or focused on an image that helps you; with your hands open or lifted up to God as we hold out all the prayers of our hearts to him.

The following response is used during the prayers:

Minister Lord, you abide in us:
All may we know that we abide in you.

The prayers end with:

Minister Merciful Father, 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, 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

The hymn was recorded as part of the St Paul’s Cathedral ‘Choir of the Nation’ project, remotely recorded by a number of singers across the country (including some from Christ Church) and mixed for St Paul’s by Matthew Chinery.

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

How Judah’s Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him from death's domains
The long-imprisoned dead.

From hell’s devouring jaws the prey
Alone our Leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in his glory now
His sceptre ruleth all;
Earth, heaven and hell before him bow
And at his footstool fall.
While joyful thus his praise we sing
His mercy we implore,
Within his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run.
Alleluia, Amen.

Words: Fulbert of Chartres (c.960-1028)
Music: St Fulbert, HJ Gauntlett (1805-1876)

Preparation of the Table

President Creator of all, you redeem us in the blood of Christ.
As we celebrate the resurrection,
renew your gift of life within us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.
All Amen.

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

II
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

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.

Invitation to Communion

*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, or to listen to the music.

As we rest in the presence of Christ all around us, we listen to the 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.

and the aria ‘Sheep may safely graze’ by JS Bach, from the cantata Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntere Jagd (BWV 208); sung by Will Anderson, lay clerk, directed and accompanied by Professor Steven Grahl.

Schafe können sicher weiden
Wo ein guter Hirte wacht.
Wo Regenten wohl regieren
Kann man Ruh' und Friede spüren
Und was Länder glücklich macht.

Sheep may safely graze and pasture
In a watchful Shepherd's sight.

Those who rule with wisdom guiding
Bring to hearts a peace abiding
Bless a land with joy made bright.
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

Farewell

The Dean speaks informally about Edmund’s ministry and thanks him for all he has contributed to the life of this Cathedral and College. He continues in a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for Edmund, Emma, Eleanor and James.

Dean

Lord of the Church, you equip your people with many gifts, we give you thanks for Edmund’s ministry in this House of Christ: for the gift of his fellowship in prayer and on Chapter, for his preaching and wisdom, his faith in you and his care for all who live, work and worship in this House. Pour out your love and grace upon him as he leaves this place; bless him in all that lies ahead that through your love he may bless the people he serves. We entrust him, with Emma, Eleanor and James, into your care as you call them all to new horizons. Shelter and protect them from all anxiety, grant them all they need to meet the future, and may they find, wherever they arrive, that you are there ahead of them to smooth their way; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All

Amen.

Dean

Edmund, may the Lord watch over your going out and your coming in from this day forth and for ever more.
In the blessing that follows, each member of Chapter and cathedral clergy speaks a line.

**Chapter**

May you know God the Father as the Source of Life;
May you know God the Son as the Resurrection Hope;
May you know God the Holy Spirit as your Strength;
May God the Eternal Trinity guard you and keep you:
filling your life with the beams of his radiance;
working in you that which is pleasing to him;
blessing you to bless those to whom you minister;
sending you out in his joy and resurrection hope;
strengthening you as you journey on in his service;
that the light and love of the Lord may shine on you
and through you forevermore;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be upon you and remain with you always.

**All**

_Amen._

**President**

May God our Father,
Maker of heaven and earth,
abide with you in joy and sorrow
and give to you the Spirit of truth;
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, alleluia, alleluia!

**All**

_Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!_

**Music after the service**

_Prelude and Fugue in C Major (BWV 547)_

JS Bach

*recorded by the Organist, Professor Steven Grahl,*
_on the Rieger Organ in the Cathedral in early 2020*
Edmund Newey

So, farewell to Edmund, whom we will miss very much. But there are no ‘goodbyes’ here; only ‘fare well’ for the next stage of the journey.

I have known Edmund for several years, and most recently as a close colleague in four capacities: as Sub Dean; as a Governing Body member; as a Canon and member of Cathedral Chapter, and at the Cathedral School. Edmund is impressive, and our loss will be Rugby’s gain. He has a lively mind, and a good pastoral heart. He is an able and tactical thinker, and both cautious and shrewd; universally respected and liked; a true pastor to clergy and congregations.

Edmund’s instinct for public theology was honed in his parish ministry before he came here in 2013, and he has brought that instinct to bear in his work here. He is highly-regarded for his deep, profound spirituality – a much-loved, first-class priest, and a most able priest and pastor. Edmund has always been hugely helpful to all of us here in practical and concrete ways, whilst also maintaining and developing his own very demanding roles in the College and Cathedral here. This role can be a complex and tricky one to negotiate, but Edmund thinks through things carefully, always acts with care and kindness, and has shown himself to be resilient and firm – but never at the expense of his pastoral heart.

Oxford is a complex city, diocese, and university; and Christ Church expresses that complexity in every breath it takes. A Sub Dean who can lead here, can lead almost anywhere, and my fondness and regard for Edmund as a person is extensive and considerable. We hold Edmund in the highest esteem, and he will be sorely missed by us all. Rugby will count their blessings. We will continue to cherish a colleague and priest who has left his mark here, and we wish him, and Emma and the children ‘farewell’ (but also, in due course, ‘haste ye back’).

The Dean, The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy
There is a ‘virtual goodbye’ to Edmund at 11am, using the Zoom platform. Please get in touch with Philippa, the Succentor (philippa.white@chch.ox.ac.uk) if you would like to come to that but haven’t received the details.

During these difficult times, 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 join our worship, 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

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 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 where you can also download a booklet of prayers for use at home, a recording of Compline, and other resources.
Prayer for the Week

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

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