Seventh Sunday of Easter
Eucharist
24 May 2020
Preparing for Worship

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we stand in suspense with the disciples: conscious of the absence of Jesus, and praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The ten days after Ascension are days in which, traditionally, we pray that God’s blessing would come in the shape of the Holy Spirit, God amongst us, turning us from a scattered group of solitary disciples into the universal Church. As we worship alone in our homes, or with our households, we may feel that scattering and solitude more than in previous years – and yet we are still part of the one Body of the Church. Although we are separated, we worship together and share together in God’s blessings and grace.

Eucharist is celebrated by the newly licensed Archdeacon of Oxford, the Revd Canon Jonathan Chaffey. The preacher is the Revd Canon Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History. Other voices from the Cathedral community are recorded in their homes; music is from archive recordings, or recorded by Lay Clerks, Sub Organist Benjamin Sheen, and Organist, Professor Steven Grahl, in their homes. The setting is the sixteenth-century chant, Missa lux et origo, for the Easter season.

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. 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/lonlineworship

Music before the service

Kommt her zu mir, spricht Gottes Sohn (BuxWV 201)
D Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

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
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, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
propter magnum 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;

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;
qui tollis peccata mundi, you are seated
suscepi 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, you alone are the Most High,
Iesu Christe, Jesus Christ,
cum Sancto Spiritu with the Holy Spirit,
in gloria Dei Patris. in the glory of God the Father.
Amen

The Collect

President Let us pray.
Silence is kept.

President O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place
where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
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
Acts 1: 6-14 (NRSV)
read by Carolyn Lloyd-Davies


So when the disciples had come together, they asked Jesus, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia; Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

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

All  
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All  
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection  
Canon Foot

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.

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 Janet Proudman
Cathedral Licensed Lay Minister

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, 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

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

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

recorded by the choristers of Christ Church, Worcester and Pembroke Colleges
at Christ Church Cathedral School in March 2020
accompanied by Sophie Biddell

Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, adore him;
Praise him angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;
Praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken;
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;
Never shall his promise fail;
God has made his saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation!
Hosts on high his pow'r proclaim;
Heav'n, and earth, and all creation,
Laud and magnify his name.
Worship, honour, glory, blessing,  
Lord, we offer unto thee;  
Young and old, thy praise expressing,  
In glad homage bend the knee.  
All the saints in heav'n adore thee,  
We would bow before thy throne;  
As thine angels serve before thee,  
So on earth thy will be done.

Words: Psalm 148, London Foundling Hospital Collection (1796)  
Music: Austria, Josef Haydn (1732-1809)

Preparation of the Table

President Father, by your Holy Spirit  
you keep the Church in unity and truth.  
As we break bread together,  
may we be one with Christ in faith and hope and love,  
now and for ever.

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,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For he is our great high priest
who has entered once for all
into the heavenly sanctuary,
evermore to pour upon your Church
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.
He is the one who has gone before us,
who calls us to be united in prayer
as were his disciples in the upper room
while they awaited his promised gift,
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.
Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

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, 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 cannot 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, 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.

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

The Spirit of truth
lead you into all truth,
give you grace
to confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you
to proclaim the word
and works of God;
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

Variations on a Theme of Paganini for two pianos    W. Lutoslawski (1913-1994)

played by Sam Mitchell, editing by Sam Mitchell and Tom Lowen
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. If you would like to receive our weekly email newsletter, please get in touch with 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

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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