Second Sunday of Easter
19 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 Dean, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, and our preacher is the Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey. 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
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 Dean 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,
for 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 Glory to God in the highest,
et in terra pac and peace to his people on earth.
hominibus bonae voluntatis. Lord God, heavenly King,
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, almighty God and Father,
adoramus te, glorificamus te, we worship you, we give you thanks,
gratias agimus tibi we praise you for your glory.
propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Lord Jesus Christ,
Deus Pater omnipotens. only Son of the Father,
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe, Lord God, Lamb of God,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, you take away the sin of the world:
Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, have mercy on us;
qui tollis peccata mundi,
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, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise 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, 22-32
read by Liz Crabtree


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.

‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, “He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.” This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

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

Gospel Reading
John 20: 19-end (NRSV)
read by Janet Proudman, Cathedral LLM

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.
Reflection
The Sub Dean
The Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey

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 the Revd Clare Hayns, College Chaplain*

*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.
The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Words: JM Neale (1818-1866)
Music: Ellacombe, 18th century German
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

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; 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
Domini Deus Sabaoth:
pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
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; 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 met Thomas in his doubting and offered words of hope,
meet you and speak to you words of love, peace and healing;
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 before and after the service

Prelude and Fugue in C sharp major (BWV 848)  
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

recorded by the Organist, Professor 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

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

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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

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