Fifth Sunday of Easter
10 May 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. Physically divided, yet spiritually united, 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.

Today we welcome our new Archdeacon, the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey who was licensed by the Bishop of Oxford in a virtual ceremony attended by the Dean, Assistant Archdeacon, Area Deans and Registrar on 1 May. As such our service takes a slightly different shape from recent weeks and is non-eucharistic. You can find out more about Jonathan in the blog on the Cathedral website and we are delighted to have him and Jane join our community. Sadly, with the Cathedral being closed, his Installation will have to be deferred but we look forward to joining with the local deaneries, members of college and our many Cathedral congregations to celebrate that in due course.

The service today is led by the Dean, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, and the reflection given by 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 drawn from both archive material and special lockdown recordings by the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Singers and our Organist, Steven Grahl, in their homes.

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.

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

As we gather together virtually in our homes, Steven Grahl, the Organist, plays ‘Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag’ (BWV 629) by J S Bach.

The Dean welcomes the Congregation.

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!

Prayers of Penitence

President 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**

recorded by a lay clerk of the Cathedral Choir, in isolation

Kyrie, eleison.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christe, eleison.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Kyrie, eleison.  
Lord, have mercy.  

Plainsong, ‘Lux et origo’

**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.

**Hymn of Praise**

recorded by members of  
the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, in isolation,  
mixed by their Director, James Potter

Thou, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light.
Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water’s face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth’s darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessèd Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean’s tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

Words: John Marriott (1780–1825)
Music: Moscow, Felice de Giardini (1716–96)

The Collect

President    Let us pray.
Silence is kept.

President    Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

All        Amen.
The Word of God

Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading
Acts 7: 55–60 (NRSV)
read by Birte Feix


But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

Reader Here ends the reading.

Second Reading
John 14: 1–14 (NRSV)
read by the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey,
Archdeacon of Oxford

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’
Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.’

Reader Here ends the reading.

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.
The Licensing

The new Archdeacon of Oxford, the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, was formally licensed on 1 May by the Bishop of Oxford in a virtual ceremony in the presence of Revd Jane Chaffey (Bishop’s Commissary), Revd Canon Geoff Bayliss (Area Dean of Cowley), Revd Anthony Buckley (Area Dean of Oxford), Revd Canon Dr Peter Groves (Archdeacon of Oxford), Darren Oliver (Diocesan Registrar) and the Dean.

Part of the ceremony is shared with us here.

Jonathan’s Installation has been deferred until the Cathedral re-opens in due course and at that point there will also be opportunity for a fuller welcome from the local deaneries, college and cathedral communities he will serve.

Bishop Jonathan, do you believe, so far as you know your own heart, that God has called you to serve as Archdeacon of Oxford.

Jonathan I believe that God has called me.

Bishop Will you commit yourself to this mission and ministry, to the people of this place, to further the kingdom of God?

Jonathan With the help of God, I will.

Bishop Members of the area team and Martyn, representing Christ Church, will you welcome Jonathan to the team and work creatively and faithfully with him, meeting regularly for prayer, study and fellowship and doing all in your power to support each other in fulfilling the ministry of Christ

Colleagues With the help of God, we will.

Bishop People of God, will you welcome Jonathan and support and uphold him in his ministry, now and in the years to come.

All With the help of God, we will.

A time of quiet prayer is kept.
Bishop  

God our Father, Lord of all the world,  
through your Son you have called us  
into the fellowship of your universal Church:  
hear our prayer for your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servant, Jonathan, now to be licensed,  
the needful gifts of grace,  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

All  

Amen.

The Archdeacon makes the declarations required by law, and takes the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, and of Canonical Obedience to the Bishop of the Diocese.

The Registrar reads out the Deed of Collation.

Bishop  

Jonathan, receive this cure, which is both yours and mine,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All  

Amen.

The Bishop blesses the new Archdeacon.

Bishop  

The God of peace  
who brought again  
from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great Shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you what is well pleasing in His sight,  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you,  
now and always.

All  

Amen.

The Bishop offers informal words of welcome. After which we return from the pre-recorded parts of the licensing ceremony to today's service.
Welcome of the New Archdeacon to Christ Church

Dean  Jonathan, God keeps faith in season and out,  
he never leaves us  
even in the midst of great trouble or confusion.  
He has called you to this ministry at this time  
and so I ask:  
Will you serve faithfully all those he has entrusted to your care,  
both within this House and across the Archdeaconry?

Archdeacon  With the help of God, I will.

Dean  On behalf of the Cathedral Chapter and congregations  
and all who live and work  
in this house of learning and house of prayer,  
we welcome you and Jane to our company,  
and we pray that God will richly bless your ministry here.

May the Lord ever be your helper,  
may he keep you safe under the shadow of his wing  
and grant you always cause to rejoice  
and magnify his holy name;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and remain with you always.

All  Amen.

The Dean welcomes Jonathan and invites us to applaud his arrival wherever we are.
O God, thou art my God:
early will I seek thee.
My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth after thee:
in a barren and dry land where no water is.
Thus have I looked for thee in holiness:
that I might behold thy power and glory.
For thy loving-kindness is better than the life itself:
my lips shall praise thee.
As long as I live will I magnify thee on this manner:
and lift up my hands in thy Name.
Because thou hast been my helper:
therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.
Alleluia.

Words: Psalm 63: 1–5, 8
Music: Henry Purcell (1659–95)

Prayers

Intercession & Thanksgiving
led by the Succentor, the Revd Philippa White

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.
Minister Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.

Hymn

recording from the archives, sung by Christ Church Cathedral Choir under the direction of Stephen Darlington

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o’er the world’s tempestuous sea; guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee; yet possessing every blessing, if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o’er us: all our weakness thou dost know; thou didst tread this earth before us, thou didst feel its keenest woe; self-denying, death-defying, thou to Galilee didst go.
Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

Words: James Edmeston (1791–1867)
Music: Mannheim, Melody from Friedrich Filitz Choralbuch 1847
harmonised by Lowell Mason (1792–1872)

Sending Out

Blessing

President    May Christ the risen Lord,
inspire, sustain and equip you
to bear faithful witness
and to love and serve his people in all things;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All    Amen.

President    Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
All    Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Music after the Service

Toccata in G major
Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)
recorded by the Organist, Steven Grahl, at home.

Regular worshippers may like to join us via Zoom at 11am BST to greet the new Archdeacon together. Details of how to join may be found in the weekly e-news or by emailing philippa.white@chch.ox.ac.uk.
Prayer for the Week

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours’ safety.
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.
We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs. For as long as it takes wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson,
President of the Methodist Conference

Holy Mary, pray for us. Blessed Frideswide, pray for us. May all the saints pray for us and the angels of God guard and protect us.

Next week we prepare to bid a fond farewell to the Sub Dean, the Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey, as he prepares to begin a new ministry as Rector of Rugby. He will preside and preach at our online service at 9am and there will be chance to join the Dean and Chapter in giving thanks for his time among us via Zoom at 11am.

Contact Sarah Hope on sarah.hope@chch.ox.ac.uk for details.


Archive recordings of the Cathedral Choir are taken from the CDs: ‘Treasures of Christ Church’, under the direction of Stephen Darlington, © 2011 Christ Church Dean and Chapter and available via Avie records.

‘Favourite Hymns from Oxford’, under the direction of Stephen Darlington, © 2004 Griffin Records and used by permission. ‘Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us’ and other tracks are available to download on Spotify at https://open.spotify.com/album/5Q1yLGAHee6lw8hl8itrkd CCLI CCL/MRL 262098, PPL 1755841, CLA 612112 and OneLicense A-733591.

Photography © 2020 Grant Bayliss.
Introducing Jonathan Chaffey

The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey CB has been licensed as Archdeacon of Oxford, in succession to Martin Gorick, who was consecrated as Bishop of Dudley on 28 January.

Until the summer of 2018, Jonathan was Chaplain-in-Chief and Archdeacon for the Royal Air Force. He has held Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Oxford since 2008 and until April was serving as interim minister for the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches, having previously been attached to the Marlow Area Team. “A passion for mission and ministry is evident right across this Diocese,” says Jonathan. “The diocesan vision for a more Christ-like Church is deeply rooted in scripture and it has set us on a journey that is simultaneously inward and outward-facing by calling us to be more contemplative, compassionate and courageous. I continue to be inspired by the sacrificial manner in which clergy and laity are working out this vision within the local community.”

As well as being Archdeacon of Oxford, Jonathan has become a member of the Cathedral Chapter of Christ Church and a Member of the Governing Body of the College. He is looking forward to ministry and life at Christ Church, albeit in different ways than he might have expected before the Covid crisis: “I love the liturgical rhythm of Cathedral life, but also the opportunities for prayer and proclamation that it brings. Christ Church Cathedral is unique in the world. That creates wonderful opportunities to build bridges between the Church and wider society.”

While acknowledging the many challenges the Church faces, Jonathan offers a staunch defence of what the Church of England brings to society: “through its denial of a divide between the sacred and the ordinary, its inclusive understanding of mission and its reach into all corners of the land, the Church of England offers a unique service to the nation”.

The Renewal and Reform programme Setting God’s People Free is particularly close to Jonathan’s heart and, alongside his chaplaincy responsibilities, will be an early priority as Archdeacon of Oxford. “It’s about being confident as Christians, sharing the grace of God in our schools, places of work and wider community, recognising that so many of our neighbours, particularly young people, may not be religious but are very much open to spirituality.”
Stay Connected

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

A shortened version of this service is available by telephone: please call 01865 954 005 to listen (charged at a local rate). You will be able to access shortened versions of our Sunday services every week from now on by using this telephone number. Please do share the number with anyone you know who may be unable to access the website or the weekly e-news.

You can find all our archive of sermons and services on the Cathedral blog, along with a daily reflection on a Psalm and a weekly reflection on a piece of music: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedralblog

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

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

Students and members of the University may join the College Chaplain, the Revd Clare Hayns, for a variety of services and online events throughout the term.

The Church of England has also set up a Daily Hope phone line service on 0800 804 8044. This offers hymns, prayers and readings through a menu system and is entirely free of charge.