

Church at Home

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity



Before the Service

Welcome to this service of Church at Home as we join together in worship with Bishop Alan Wilson and contributors from across the Diocese of Oxford. We are especially delighted to welcome The Revd Dr Guy Harrison, as our preacher this morning.

Today the church celebrates the feast of St Luke the Evangelist or the 'beloved physician' as Colossians 4.14 refers to him. Believed to be the author of both the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel in his name, Luke provides a brilliantly descriptive, event-focussed narrative of the life of Jesus Christ and (in Acts) of Luke's own time accompanying St Paul.

Whilst almost forensic in its detail and nuance, Luke's Gospel keeps the 'bigger picture' of God's Kingdom as its primary concern; with an emphasis on the close relationship between salvation, human flourishing and mission. We hear in today's Gospel reading, how the seventy are sent out to be people of peace; healing the sick and proclaiming that 'the Kingdom of God has come near.'

For Luke, healing and salvation are inextricable. The Greek word 'sozo' occurs sixteen times in his Gospel and can be translated as both 'to save' and also 'to restore to health'. This holistic approach to salvation is at the heart of the church's healing ministry and offers a picture of what fullness of life in Christ looks like far beyond any narrow interpretation of healing simply as 'cure'. Whilst great miracles of recovery from illness do sometimes happen, this is not the only (or even the most usual) form of healing, and we must be careful to neither make assumptions about other people's needs nor to pathologize difference. As Michael Perham comments:

'to look for so called 'results' of healing in a clinical sense... is to attempt to confine God's work to our own immediate horizons. There are countless examples of those enabled to grow through pain and suffering... given confidence that enables the doctors to do their work so much more effectively, of those enabled to die well... [and those who] have received the courage and grace to live life to the full' (SPCK 2000, p.190)

In this global pandemic, some outward signs of healing ministry (such as the laying on of hands and anointing) have had to take other forms as we each seek to protect one another from coronavirus, but the work of prayer continues whatever the circumstance. As we worship together today, let us hold before God all those who work in caring professions, in healthcare chaplaincy, and those in communities who are inspired by St Luke to dedicate their lives to Christ's work of healing and wholeness in body, mind, spirit and relationship.

Music before the service

'I heard the voice of Jesus say'

Words: Horatius N. Bonar (1808-1889)

Music: 'Kingsfold' arranged by Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

recorded by Choristers of Christ Church, Worcester and Pembroke Colleges,
accompanied by Sophie Biddell (Oxford)

Greeting

Bishop Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All **and also with you.**

The Bishop welcomes the congregation gathered online and introduces the service.

Confession

Bishop Jesus builds a community of love; where burdens are laid down,
relationships are healed, and hearts are set free.

We come before God today, aware of our need for
forgiveness and release from any thoughts, words or
actions which stand in the way of human flourishing.

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.

Absolution

Bishop The God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
and cleanse you from all your sins
that you may behold the glory of his Risen Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Song

Everyone needs compassion, a love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

Saviour, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save
Forever author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave, Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me, with all my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow, everything I believe in
And now I surrender

Saviour, He can move the mountains...

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen King, Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen King

Saviour, He can move the mountains...

Majesty, Majesty
Your grace, Your grace has found me just as I am
Empty handed but alive in Your hands
Majesty, Majesty
Forever I am changed by Your love
In the presence of Your Majesty

'Mighty to Save': Ben Fielding / Reuben Morgan © 2006 Hillsong Worship
'Majesty': Martin Smith / Stuart Garrard © 2005 Delirious?
Recorded by St Andrew's Church (High Wycombe)

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Bishop Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul;
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
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.**

We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading

Isaiah 35.3-6 (NRSV)

read by Sister Jane (All Saints Sisters of the Poor, Cowley)

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
He heals the broken-hearted,
and binds up their wounds.
He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

Recorded by Liam Cartwright

Gospel Reading

Luke 10.1-9 (NRSV)

read by Sayo Akinwalere (Littlemore)

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

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

The Revd Dr Guy Harrison
Head of Spiritual & Pastoral Care, Oxford Health NHS Trust

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in God.

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

led by The Revd Katie Tupling (Diocesan Disability Advisor)

Let us pray to God our Father,
whose Son came that we may have life.

We pray for all who provide leadership in healthcare,
for those who exercise stewardship and allocate resources,
for all on the frontline caring for those who are sick, in hospital,
in care homes, and at home.

Compassionate God – may you bless those who need medical care
in body, mind and spirit. Give strength to those who care for others.
May they bring wholeness to those who are broken.

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
All **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the community of All Saints' Sisters of the Poor: their communal life together, and the running of the St John's care home, Helen House and Douglas House hospice care, and the Porch (offering support to those who are homeless).

Compassionate God – may you bless their communal life, and ministry amongst those who are at their most vulnerable. May they bring healing and hope.

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
All **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the Oxford Health NHS Trust, and for Guy Harrison - head of Spiritual and Pastoral care: for their companionship to patients, carers and staff within the context of illness and chronic conditions.

Compassionate God – may you bless the Chaplains and wider team. May they be a calming presence in the midst of the many and varied storms.

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
All **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are guiding our nation at this time, discerning the best way forward, and shaping national policies; for leaders in politics and the Church of England.

Compassionate God – may you bless all leaders, that they may make wise decisions for the common good,

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
All **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbourhoods and communities, our friends and families, and for ourselves.

Compassionate God – may you bless us, made in your image and loved by you. May we give and receive love, comfort those in distress, help those in need, offer friendship to those who feel lost.

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
All **receive our prayer.**

Taken from the Order of St Luke the Physician:

*O Lord,
Only you know how hard life has been...
Only you have seen each moment of the day and night...
Only you feel the pain and understand the discomfort...
Only you are beside us through our grief and sorrow...
Only you have been within each moment to comfort us...
O Lord, break through the loneliness of our suffering.
You who have encountered sorrow,
and laid a glorious path of hope, healing
and the promise of heaven in our hearts.
Amen.*

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

Bishop To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

*Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church.
Although we are separated by distance, we are one Body of Christ; the Spirit moves
among us as we share Christ's peace.*

Hymn

Saint Luke, beloved physician,
with honour now recall,
who served his master's mission,
who ministered to Paul;
whose skill to distant ages
bequeathed a gift unpriced,
a gospel in whose pages
we see the face of Christ.

He tells for us the stories
of Jesus here on earth,
the unsung pains and glories
that marked the Church's birth;
the Spirit's power in preaching,
the contrite sinner freed,
the grace and mercy reaching
our deepest human need.

For all who work our healing
we lift our hearts in prayer,
the love of God revealing
in science, skill and care:
his gifts be still imparted
to those who make us whole,
like Luke the tender-hearted.
physician of the soul.

Words: Timothy Dudley Smith
Music: 'Aurelia', Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)
Recorded by Tessa Shaw (St Francis of Assisi, Terriers)

Preparation of the Table

Bishop

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

All

Blessed be God forever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Bishop Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
that, taking upon himself our human nature,
he shared our joy and our tears,
bore all our sickness,
and carried all our sorrows.
Through death he brought us
to the life of his glorious resurrection,
giving for frailty eternal strength,
and restoring in us the image of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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.**

Bishop Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

All Great is the mystery of faith.
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Bishop And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of The blessed Virgin Mary,
St Luke and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop 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.

Bishop Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

All **we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

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

Bishop God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
in the glory of God the Father.**

The President receives the Bread & Wine on behalf of the community as we make our 'spiritual communion'; taking time to notice God's presence with us and trust that, as we desire communion with God, God will meet us in our hearts by faith. There are no special words or actions required for this; only true desire, lively faith and genuine love. If you find it helpful you may wish to use the following prayer, or simply listen to the music and meditate upon God's love for you.

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.

Hymn

We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help,
and some have come to make amends:
Your hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.

Words: John Bell (b 1949) and Graham Maule (b 1958)
Music: 'Ye banks and ye braes', Scottish Melody
Recorded by Tessa Shaw (St Francis of Assisi, Terriers)

Prayer after Communion

Bishop

Let us pray.

God of compassion,
you came into the world to share our life.
In the person of Jesus Christ you walked with us
and gave your life for our salvation.
May we, who have made spiritual communion with you,
know our wounds to be healed, our souls strengthened,
and our lives transformed by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless, stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord, Lord of all

*Words and Music: Hillsong Worship 2012
recorded by St Andrew's Church (High Wycombe)*

Blessing

President May God the holy and undivided Trinity
preserve you in body, mind and spirit,
and bring you safe to that heavenly country
where peace and harmony reign;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal

All Touched by Your grace,
We take Your grace to the world.
Healed by Your love,
All **We take Your love to the world.**
Renewed by Your Spirit,
All **We go in the Spirit's power to be agents of Your healing.**

All Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Music after the service

'Praise is Rising (Hosana)'

*Brenton Brown / Paul Baloche © 2005 Thankyou Music
recorded by St Andrew's Church (High Wycombe)*

Our special thanks go to all those who contributed to this service:

The Rt Revd Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham; Revd Dr Guy Harrison, Head of Spiritual & Pastoral Care, Oxford Health NHS Trust; Sister Jane, All Saints Sisters of the Poor, Cowley; Sayo Akinwalere, St Mary & St Nicholas, Littlemore; Revd Katie Tupling, Diocesan Disability Advisor, Tessa Shaw, St Francis of Assisi, Terriers; Liam Cartwright; the Choristers of Christ Church, Worcester and Pembroke Colleges, accompanied by Sophie Biddell (Oxford) and St Andrew's Church, High Wycombe.

The lead Liturgist was Revd Toby Wright and the Trinity 19 Producer was Revd Hannah Cartwright Church at Home is produced by Charlotte Bannister-Parker and Steven Buckley, with support from Mark Robinson, Digital Creative.



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