

Church at Home

The Third Sunday after Trinity



Before the Service

A very warm welcome to our Church at Home service for the Third Sunday after Trinity. We are delighted that Revd Shemil Mathew, Chaplain to Oxford Brookes University, presides at this morning's service from his home and the address is given by the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester.

We open today's service with a special prayer from the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, to honour and mourn those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Reading last Saturday night. May we respond with grace and compassion to this terrible act, and may our elected officials and civil servants respond with courage and wisdom.

We continue to remember those who are still suffering during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We pray that the number of people affected by this disease continues to fall and that a vaccine is found soon. We also hold in our hearts the countries around the world where numbers are still increasing and hope that every patient receives the care they need.

This service would not have been possible without the support of the lead liturgist, Revd Canon Toby Wright, Team Rector of the Benefice of Witney, nor without contributions of music, scripture and prayers by pastors and parishioners from Witney, Hanborough and Freeland, Reading, Banbury, the Parish of the Claydons, Twyford, Winslow, Oxford Brookes University, Parish Nursing Ministries UK, Bourne End and Dorchester.

This morning we are so grateful that our churches across the Diocese begin to be reopened and give thanks that we are able to welcome congregations back into the physical space of church, even though social distancing and other measures remain in place. To express our gratitude, and remembering how blessed we are to have basic needs met, we open today's service with a grace composed, in his youth, by the Very Revd J. Paul Burbridge, the father of Revd Sarah Bourne from St Mary's, Banbury. Together, as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us bless the Lord in worship and praise.

How to watch Church at Home

The direct link to this service is published at oxford.anglican.org/livestream about an hour before the service starts. You can also find it on our YouTube, Vimeo and Facebook pages at 10am.

The Gathering

Bells ringing from St Laurence, Winslow

Oculi Omnium 'Grace' performed by Revd Sarah Bourne, Associate Priest, and Chaplain for the Arts, St Mary's Banbury and her family. Composed by the Very Revd J.Paul Burbridge and inspired by Psalm 145.15.

The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food in due season.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Amen

The Greeting

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

Revd Shemil Mathew, Anglican Chaplain at Oxford Brookes University and Tutor in Contextual Theology, Ripon College Cuddesdon, welcomes people from across the Diocese and beyond.

The Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, lights candles and shares with us this prayer:

Loving God, you are the author and sustainer of our lives.
You know the anguish of the sorrowful, you are attentive to the prayers of the broken-hearted. Hear your people who cry out to you in their need; strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness.

We pray today for those who have died violently, for James and Joe and David. Draw them to yourself; let your face shine upon them. May they experience your eternal peace and joy.

Be near to all those who have been touched by these events: those who have been hurt or traumatised, those who have lost their loved ones, their friends and lost their sense of security. Be for them a steady comfort and safe resting place.

Soften the hearts and steady the minds of those who would do violence to others. May hate be replaced with love, violence with peace, and darkness with your light.

In the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Hymn

Please join Revd Emma Hopegood-Jones and Chris Hopegood-Jones from Hanborough and Freeland Benefice as we sing:

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Prayers of Penitence

Revd Shemil Mathew introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

President As sisters and brothers in God's family,
we come together to ask God for forgiveness.

All call to mind their sins in silence.

President Father, you are the source of light and life:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

President Holy Spirit, you bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President May almighty God have mercy upon you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Song of Praise

'Reign in me' performed by Revd Rickey Simpson-Gray, Jon and Isaac Hobbs.

Over all the earth you reign on high
Every mountain stream, every sunset sky
But my one request, Lord, my only aim
Is that you'd reign in me again

Lord, reign in me, reign in your power
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour
You are the Lord of all I am
So won't you reign in me again

Over every thought, over every word
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord
'Cause you mean more to me than any earthly thing
So, won't you reign in me again. (x2)

The Collect

President Let us pray:

God our Saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Jeremiah 28.5-9.

Read by Benet Parker, Student at Oxford Brookes University

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.'

All

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 89. 1-4, 17-18

Sung by Revd Canon Toby Wright, Team Rector of Witney.

¹ My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: ♦
with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness
throughout all generations.

² I will declare that your love is established for ever; ♦
you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

³ For you said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; ♦
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴ “Your seed will I establish for ever ♦
and build up your throne for all generations.”

...

¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength, ♦
and in your favour you lift up our heads.

¹⁸ Truly the Lord is our shield; ♦
the Holy One of Israel is our king.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10. 40–end

*Read by Revd Janet Binns, Rector St Nicholas,
Hedsor and St Mark’s, Bourne End*

Reader The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

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

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

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

The Address

The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, The Bishop of Dorchester

Organ Interlude: 'O Brother Man' by Francis Ramsey from St Mary the Virgin, Witney

The Affirmation of Faith

Led by Elizabeth and Kate Reynolds, Witney Benefice

*Reader
All*

Jesus calls us to share our faith, and so together we say:

**Jesus has taught us to speak of hope
as the coming of God's Kingdom.**

**We believe that God is at work in our world
turning hopeless and evil situations into good.**

**We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end,
and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.**

**One day 'all tears will be wiped away'
and 'the lamb will lie down with the lion.'**

**True peace and reconciliation are not only desirable,
they are also assured and guaranteed.**

This is our faith, and this is our hope.

(from Third World Solidarity Day)

Prayers of Intercession

*Led by Anne Taylor, Director of Nursing for
Parish Nursing Ministries UK, based in the Diocese.*

Heavenly Father, we pray for your Church throughout the world, that in communion with you she may bring your word to your people.

We pray for our link Dioceses of Kimberley and Kuruman; Nandyal; and Växjö; for their clergy and people. We pray for all Christians persecuted for their faith, that they may know your peace in their courage. And we commit into your hands Bishop Steven, and all clergy and lay workers in the Diocese, that they may have energy and wisdom in your service.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, we pray for the world, for peace and reconciliation between all peoples, an end to violence and injustice and a careful stewardship of the environment you have given to us. We pray for all places of war, lawlessness and aggression, that your Word may enlighten the darkness and bring active repentance, peace and justice.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord God, we pray for all who have a ministry of welcome, that we may see you in others and hear and share your word. In this time of pandemic we pray for all who work in the hospitality industry, in food and drink production, and for all people in the world without clean water or sufficient food. We pray too for teachers and educators, counsellors and all in holy orders, that your word may be known in the world.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, we pray for the sick and all who suffer, remembering those known to us in a moment of quiet...

We commit into your hands all who are isolated, alone or have no one to pray for them, and we ask for your wisdom, energy and courage for scientists, leaders and all who work in health and social care, as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are dying and the bereaved, that they may take courage from word of your eternal kingdom. We pray especially for those who have lost loved ones without having been able to be with them. And for all facing grief in isolation.

We pray for the repose of the souls of the recently departed.

All May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.

And so, in the power of the Holy Trinity, and with St Frideswide, St Birinus and all the saints we pray:

All Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Jesus says, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

The Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread of Wine

Revd Shemil Mathew prepares the altar-table.

Hymn

Please join with Francis and Sally Rumsey, from St Mary the Virgin, Witney as we sing:

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beams,
thou silver moon that gently gleams,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: after Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

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.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.
Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and singing:

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.**

Gracious Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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 we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us ✠ the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts...

Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Mary, the Mother of Jesus,
Frideswide, Birinus and all the saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

President Made in God's image, and formed by God's love,
Let us pray in the Spirit as our Saviour taught us:

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**

The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

President Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

We meditate on the words of Jesus, 'I am the bread of life', as recorded in John 6:22-71, noting St Augustine's comment on this passage: 'Believe, and you have eaten already.'

We are invited to make a spiritual communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is a true desire to receive Christ, a lively faith in Christ, and a genuine love for Christ and his people.

*The anthem for reflection is the Taizé Community's 'Laudemus Deum'.
Translation: Let us praise God, who has created and redeemed us, and will save us by his mercy alone (St Francis of Assisi).*

Prayer after Communion

Words by the Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town

President Spirit of God, you established the dance of creation;
bring life out of death
bring order out of chaos.
Call us to radical action: to care for the web of creation,
to share our resources justly
and to work for the renewal of our mother, Earth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All **Amen**

Hymn

Please join Mandy and Tom Green from St Mary's, Twyford as we sing:

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us
Forever

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God, we will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us
Forever, forever (x2)

Sing praise...

The Dismissal

President May God, whose glory fills the heavens,
 cleanse you by his holiness,
 strengthen you in your ministries
 and send you to proclaim his word;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you
 and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

President Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

With special thanks to all those who made this service possible: The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester; The Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading; Revd Shemil Mathew, Anglican Chaplain at Oxford Brookes University and Tutor in Contextual Theology, Ripon College Cuddesdon; Revd Janet Binns, Rector of St Nicholas, Hedsor and St Mark's, Bourne End; Revd Sarah Bourne and family and especially her father, the Very Revd J Paul Burbridge; Tom Hobbs and Revd Rickey Simpson-Gray, Team Vicar, Parish of the Claydons; Jon and Isaac Hobbs, also from the Parish of the Claydons; Revds Emma and Chris Hopegood-Jones, Hanborough and Freeland Benefice; Benet Parker, Student at Brookes University; Dr Francis and Sally Rumsey, Saint Mary the Virgin, Witney; Elizabeth and Kate Reynolds, Benefice of Witney; Anne Taylor, Director of Nursing for Parish Nursing Ministries; Mandy and Tom from St Mary's, Twyford; and the Taizé Community.

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Disciples Together

It is time for the Church to re-engage with children, young people and families.

Our new report, *Disciples Together*, explores how we can embrace change for the benefit of God's work in the world and outlines steps for our future ministry.

oxford.anglican.org/disciples-together