

# Eucharist with the Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ministerial Commitment

Maundy Thursday  
11am 14 April 2022  
Christ Church Cathedral



Today we celebrate the ministry of the whole people of God, and especially of those who worship and minister in this diocese of Oxford. Christ has entrusted his ministry to the whole Church and in this service we are all invited to renew the public promises we made to serve in our respective ministries.

United as the whole people of God, we re-affirm our commitment to God in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. This we do in prayer and praise, in which we bring to God the complexity of our own contexts and ministries. We look back on a year in which we have continued to deal with constraint and difficulty, pressure, need and trauma of our own and within our communities.

As we begin cautiously to look to the future, we do so aware of the ways in which things cannot return to how they were. We grieve our losses both individually and as the whole people of God, and we come to God in prayer for healing. Yet we look to the future in trust, knowing that 'the God who has called us is faithful' and that we, as faithful ministers of his word and sacrament, are already, by responding to the call of God, part of God's work for the good of all people.

We gather on Maundy Thursday, on the threshold of the holiest days of the Church's calendar as we prepare to enter into the remembrance of Christ's passion and death, and the celebration of his resurrection. It is a very old custom to bless on this day the oils for the ministry of the Church in the pattern of Jesus, the great High Priest. The rededication of ourselves to the promises and vows we have made in following Christ at this time is newer, but no less appropriate, as we gather to be sent out to lead God's people through the Triduum and into Easter.

In this cathedral, the renewal of commitment is led from the shrine of St Frideswide, the patron saint of the diocese, to signify that all ministry is Christ's, entrusted to his Church with its saints, and accountable to him. From the shrine, the oils will be taken to the altar to be offered to God along with the gifts of bread and wine.

*The Sub Dean, the Revd Canon Richard Peers, welcomes all those who gather in their homes and in the cathedral.*

*The Bishop's procession enters the cathedral as the organist begins to play. If you are comfortably able, please stand to sing:*

## Hymn

**O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;  
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.**

**O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord, all ye of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.**

**O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,  
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.**

**O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along:  
for love in creation, for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!**

Words: *HW Baker (1821–1877)*

Music: *Laudate dominum (Parry), CHH Parry (1848–1918)*

## The Greeting

*Bishop* Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests  
to serve his God and Father.

*All* **Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.**

*Bishop* Grace, mercy and peace be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*The Bishop of Oxford introduces the service. Please kneel or sit.*

### **Prayers of Penitence**

*Deacon* Jesus said, 'Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.'  
As sisters and brothers in God's family,  
we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

*All* **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

### **Song of Penitence**

**Father hear our prayer  
that our lives may be  
consecrated only unto you;  
cleanse us with your fire  
fill us with your power  
that the world may glorify your name:**

**Lord have mercy on us.  
Christ have mercy on us.  
Lord have mercy on us.**

Words and Music: *Andy Piercy (b. 1951)*

## Absolution

*Bishop* The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

## Song of Praise

**King of kings, Majesty  
God of Heaven living in me  
Gentle Saviour, closest friend  
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end  
All within me falls at Your throne:**

*Your Majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve your Majesty*

**Earth and Heaven worship You  
Love eternal, Faithful and True  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls  
Brought this sinner near to Your throne  
All within me cries out in praise:**

*Your majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve your Majesty.*

Words and Music: *Jarrod Cooper (1996)*

## The Collect

*Bishop* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

*Bishop* Heavenly Father, who anointed your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom: anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit, that we who share in his suffering and victory may bear witness to the gospel of salvation; 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.**

*Please sit.*

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 61: 1–9*

*read by the Revd Dr Hannah Lewis,  
Chaplain amongst Deaf People*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,  
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;  
but you shall be called priests of the Lord,  
you shall be named ministers of our God;  
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,  
and in their riches you shall glory.

Because their shame was double,  
and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot,  
therefore they shall possess a double portion;  
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

*Reader*            This is the word of the Lord.

*All*                **Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain seated as the Choir sings the psalm.*

## **Psalm 23**

*Setting: Howard Goodall (b. 1958)*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me, you will comfort me.  
Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **New Testament Reading**

*James 5: 13–16a*

*read by Benjamin H. Johnson III,  
LLM at St Mary and St Nicholas, Littlemore*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

*Reader*      This is the word of the Lord.

*All*            **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand.*

## **Gradual Hymn**

**Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.**

**He comes the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.**



## Gospel Reading

*Luke 4: 16–21*

*read by the Deacon, the Revd Ruth Harley,  
Curate in the Watling Valley Partnership*

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

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

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

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven’s eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.**

*Words: Philip Doddridge (1702–1751)*

*Music: Bristol, Thomas Ravenscroft (c. 1590–c. 1633)*

## Sermon

*The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford.*

*Please be seated for the sermon.*

*After a few moments of silence, please stand if you are able as the organist begins to play. During the following hymn, the Bishop's procession will move to the Shrine of St Frideswide. The renewal of ministerial commitment is led from the Shrine, to symbolise that ministry, derived from Christ, is entrusted to his Church with its saints, and accountable to him.*

## Hymn

**How shall I sing that majesty which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie; sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around  
thy throne, O God most high;  
ten thousand times ten thousand sound  
thy praise; but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears, while I thy footsteps trace;  
a sound of God comes to my ears, but they behold thy face:  
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,  
with all my fire and light;  
yet when thou dost accept their gold,  
Lord, treasure up my mite.**

**Enlighten with faith's light my heart, inflame it with love's fire,  
then shall I sing and take my part with that celestial choir.  
They sing, because thou art their sun;  
Lord, send a beam on me;  
for where heaven is but once begun,  
there alleluias be.**

**How great a being, Lord, is thine, which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line to sound so vast a deep:  
thou art a sea without a shore,  
a sun without a sphere;  
thy time is now and evermore,  
thy place is everywhere.**

Words: *John Mason (1646–1694)*  
Music: *Coe Fen, Ken Naylor (1931–1991)*

*Those in the cathedral will join together with colleagues from around the diocese as we reaffirm together our commitment to Christ's ministry. The Bishop of Oxford addresses all those present:*

*Bishop* My brothers and sisters, at his Last Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, and he prayed that they might be one. He gave them an everlasting sign of his own love, in the sacrament of bread and wine. He consecrated himself to his Father's service, to be the high priest of the new covenant. I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service, as stewards of the mysteries of God, and ministers of his grace.

Christ has entrusted his ministry to the whole Church. In consequence of our baptism into Christ, we each have a ministry to exercise and a part to play in the body of Christ. Therefore I ask, will you serve the Lord with faith, humility and joy?

*All* **By the help of God, I will.**

*Please sit. Licensed lay ministers remain standing and a Bishop addresses them:*

When you were commissioned, you undertook to be faithful in prayer, and by word and example to minister to those for whom Christ died. Will you do all that is in your power to witness to God's love for his people?

*LLMs* By the help of God, I will.

*LLMs sit. Priests and deacons stand if they are able and a Bishop addresses them:*

At your ordination as a deacon, you received the yoke of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, to build up God's people in his truth, and serve them in his name?

*Deacons* By the help of God, I will.

*Deacons sit. A Bishop addresses the priests:*

At your ordination to the priesthood, you took authority to watch over and care for God's people, to absolve and bless them in his name, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, and to minister the sacraments of his new covenant. Will you continue as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, preaching the Gospel of Christ, and ministering his holy sacraments?

*Priests* By the help of God, I will.

*Priests sit. John Sykes, Chair of the Diocesan Synod's House of Laity, addresses the bishops:*

At your ordination as bishops, you received the gift of the Spirit, that you might lead the Church in mission, and send out ministers in Christ's name; that you might promote its unity, uphold its discipline, and guard its faith; and that you might teach and govern the people committed to your charge. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, watching over Christ's own flock, and building them up in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace?

*Bishops* By the help of God, I will.

*Please stand if you are able. John Sykes addresses all the ministers:*

May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will accomplish it.

*All* **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

## The Prayers

*Bishop* My brothers and sisters, pray for all who minister, that they may be constant in prayer and steadfast in faith, and serve your people with joy.

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

*Bishop* Pray for your deacons, that the Lord may pour upon them the riches of his grace. Pray that God who has called them to his service may make them worthy of that calling.

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

*Bishop* Pray for your priests. Ask the Lord to bless them with the fullness of his love, that they may be faithful ministers of his word and sacrament, and lead his people in the way of salvation.

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

*Bishop* Pray for your bishops, that despite our unworthiness and failure we may be faithful to the great trust that has been handed to us. Pray that we may become more like our Good Shepherd and great High Priest, the teacher and servant of us all, and so become more and more a sign of God's loving presence among you.

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

*Bishop* Pray for the families of those who minister, for their homes, and for all with whom they share their lives.

*All* **Lord, hear us.**

*Bishop* May the Lord in his love keep us ever close to him, and may he bring us all to the fullness of eternal life.

*All* **Amen.**

*Bishop* 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.

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

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please offer a sign of peace to those around you in a way with which everyone involved is comfortable. During the hymn, the table is prepared.*

**Hymn**

**Blest by the sun, the olive tree  
brought clusters of fair fruit to birth,  
whose ripeness now we bring with prayer,  
Lord Christ, redeemer of the earth.**

**Eternal King, look down and bless  
the oil your servants offer here,  
and may it be a lively sign  
which all the powers of darkness fear.**

**From those washed in the sacred font  
let Satan's influence depart,  
and when this oil the brow shall seal  
transforming grace invade the heart.**

**Our wounded nature thus be healed  
by your anointing grace, O Lord;  
in men and women so renewed  
shall God's own image be restored.**

**Lord Christ, the Father's only Son,  
who took our flesh in Mary's womb,  
give light to your anointed ones,  
and break the power of death's dark tomb.**

**So may this joyous paschal feast,  
the time when saving grace is given,  
fill every Christian soul with praise,  
and raise our minds from earth to heaven. Amen.**

Words: *Richard Rutt (1925–2011), based on an early Latin hymn*  
Music: *Gonfalon Royal, Percy Carter Buck (1871–1947)*

### **The Blessing of the Oils**

*Three deacons bring the oils in procession to the sanctuary.*

*Bishop*      Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
*All*            **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.**

*A deacon presents oil, saying:*

The oil for anointing the sick and dying.

*Bishop*      Blessed are you, sovereign God, gentle and merciful,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
Your Word brought light out of darkness,  
and daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth.  
Your anointed Son brought healing  
to those in weakness and distress.  
He broke the power of evil and set us free from sin and death  
that we might praise your name for ever.  
By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest  
on those who are anointed with this oil in your name;  
may they be made whole in body, mind and spirit,  
restored in your image, renewed in your love,  
and serve you as sons and daughters in your kingdom.

*All*            **Blessed be God for ever.**

*A second deacon presents oil, saying:*

The oil for signing with the cross at baptism.

*Bishop* Blessed are you, sovereign God,  
the protector of all who believe in you.  
Your anointed Son overcame the powers of evil  
when he was lifted high upon the cross.  
By the power of your Spirit may your blessing  
rest on those who are anointed with this oil in your name;  
as they come to the waters of baptism  
may it be for them a sign of your defence  
in their fight against sin, the world and the devil,  
and bring them to share in Christ's victory.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*A third deacon presents oil, saying:*

The oil of chrism.

*Bishop* Blessed are you, sovereign God and eternal Father,  
upholding by your grace all who hear your call.  
Under your old covenant  
priests and kings were anointed to serve you  
and in the fullness of time  
you anointed your Son by the Holy Spirit  
to be the Christ, the Saviour and Servant of all.  
By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest  
on those who are anointed with this chrism in your name;  
let it be for them a sign of joy and gladness  
as they share in the royal priesthood of the new covenant  
and make known the kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
we lift our voices of thanks and praise:

*All* **Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,  
now and for ever. Amen.**



## Taking of the Bread and Wine

*The Bishop takes the bread and wine and says:*

Pour upon the poverty of our love  
and the weakness of our praise  
the transforming fire of your presence.

*All*           **Amen.**

## 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*       It is indeed right and good  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit  
you anointed him to be the servant of all  
and ordained that he should enter  
into your kingdom through suffering.

And now he stands by us and pours out for our healing  
the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope.

In your wisdom and love you anoint your holy people  
to be a royal priesthood, to share in Christ's suffering,  
and to reveal his glory to the world.

Therefore earth unites with heaven  
to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with angels and archangels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
holy is the Lord God almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
holy is the Lord God almighty:  
who was and is and is to come –  
holy, holy, holy is the Lord!**

**Blessed, blessed, blessed is the One,  
blest the One who comes in the Lord's name.  
Blessed, blessed, blessed is the One,  
blest the One who comes in the Lord's name.  
Hosanna in the highest heav'n –  
blessed, blessed, blest the One who comes.**

Words and Music: *anonymous*

*Bishop*     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.

*Deacon* Christ is the bread of life:

*All* **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*Bishop* 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

*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 Bishop breaks the consecrated bread.*

*Bishop* We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Song

**All hail the Lamb, enthroned on high,  
his praise shall be our battle cry.  
He reigns victorious, forever glorious,  
his name is Jesus, he is the Lord.**

Words and Music: Dave Bilbrough

## Giving of Communion

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

*The Bishop and the People receive Communion. Please follow the instructions of the Stewards and Vergers.*

*If you are at home, know that you are part of the one body of the Church, part of those present here as they are part of you, and that you share by the grace of God and the love of Jesus in the bread that is his body, broken for us.*

*During Communion, the choir will sing the Anthem and the congregation will sing the Hymn.*

## **Anthem**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor:

He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliv'rance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord;

To give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

*Words: Isaiah 61: 1–3*

*Music: Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*

## **Hymn**

**Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,  
body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,  
blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,  
wash me with water flowing from thy side.**

**Strength and protection may thy Passion be,  
O blessèd Jesu, hear and answer me;  
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,  
so shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign,  
in death's dread moments make me only thine;  
call me and bid me come to thee on high  
where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.**

*Words: Latin, 14th century*

*Music: Anima Christi, William Maher (1823–77)*

### **Prayers after Communion**

*Bishop*      Let us pray.

Good Shepherd,  
you welcome us at your table  
and anoint us with the oil of gladness:  
May your goodness and mercy  
follow us all the days of our life  
that we may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*All*            **Amen.**

*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.**

*Please stand.*

## The Blessing

*Bishop* Our help is in the name of the Lord  
*All* **who has made heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Blessed be the name of the Lord  
*All* **now and for ever. Amen.**

*Bishop* Almighty God,  
who for the salvation of the world  
gives to his people many gifts and ministries  
to the advancement of his glory,  
stir up in you the gifts of his grace,  
and sustain each one of you in your ministry;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
*All* **Amen.**

## Hymn

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take:  
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,  
that all the world his glorious praise may sing.**

**Go forth and tell! Where still the darkness lies,  
In wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:  
Give us, O Lord, concern for heart and mind,  
A love like yours which cares for humankind.**

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!  
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and King for evermore.**

*Words: JE Seddon (1915–1983)*

*Music: Yanworth, John Barnard (b. 1948)*

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Please collect oils for your ministry in the coming year from the Chapter House after the service. A stock is also kept at the cathedral, available on request.

The oils are made with fairly-traded olive oil from the Holy Land. Oil for anointing for the ministry of healing is scented with lavender, while oil of chrism is scented with balsam, frankincense, myrrh and cinnamon.

Thank you to all those who have been part of the service, both in preparation and in the cathedral today.

Please come for coffee and pastries, which will be served at St Aldates Church, following the service.

May God bless each of us in our several ministries and in our shared participation in His mission in this diocese.



Photography will take place during the service on behalf of the Church of England. No other photography or filming is permitted during the service.

Still images captured by the photographers today may be used for social media and promotional materials published by the Diocese of Oxford.

If you have questions relating to photography taking place today, please email [communications@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:communications@oxford.anglican.org)

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## **The Oil for Anointing the Sick and the Dying**

This oil is used in the Church's ministry of healing. Just as oil was used as a medical ointment (Luke 10:34), the Church anoints the sick and the dying to signify the work of the Holy Spirit in the healing of the sick. This follows the example of the apostles (Mark 6:13) and the teaching of James (5:14): 'Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.'

## **The Oil for Signing with the Cross at Baptism**

This oil is used for the Signing with the Cross, following the Decision, at the baptism of adults and infants. Alternatively, for adults, it may be used at the Signing with the Cross during the Call and Celebration of the Decision to be Baptized (*Common Worship: Christian Initiation*, p. 37). The practice of using oil in association with the rite of baptism has its origin in the natural use of olive oil in Mediterranean culture and draws on rich scriptural imagery. In relation to this pre-baptismal anointing, the Greco-Roman world's use of oil in connection with healing, washing and protecting the body is relevant, as is its use for preparing and softening an athlete's body for a contest.

## **The Oil of Chrism**

This oil, to which perfume has been added to give it a sweet smell, is used for anointing after baptism. At the baptism of infants and adults, it may be poured over the crown of the head during the post-baptismal prayer: 'May God who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace...' It may also be used at confirmation, at the ordination of presbyters and bishops, and is traditionally part of the rite for the consecration of altars and churches as well as the coronation of the monarch. When Peter the Apostle acknowledges Jesus as the 'Christ' (Mark 8:29), he was recognising him as the 'anointed one' of God ('*Christos*' in Greek, '*Messiah*' in Hebrew). Chrism has therefore been used in a variety of Christian traditions as a sign of participation in the community of the Anointed One and in the royal priesthood of the Church as well as the blessings brought by the Holy Spirit.

...serve the Lord with faith, humility  
and joy

...witness to God's love for his people

...build up God's people in his truth,  
and serve them in his name

...preach the Gospel of Christ, and  
minister his holy sacraments

...build up in the unity of the Spirit  
and the bond of peace

# COME AND EAT

A short podcast series from Bishop Steven exploring the profound, wonderful meal at the heart of our faith.

[oxford.anglican.org/come-and-eat](https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-eat)