

Eucharist with the Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ministerial Commitment

Maundy Thursday
28 March 2024
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.

United as the whole people of God, one body with many members, we come before God in prayer and praise to reaffirm our commitment to worship and to service. We come to the mother church of the diocese, a house of prayer for many centuries, and a sign of our unity with the communion of saints and the faithful of this diocese who have gone before us. As we worship God, we give thanks for the diversity of our callings and for the variety of our ministries, honouring all our differences and affirming that it is only together that we can fully be Christ's body.

Oils for the ministry of the church have been blessed on this day since the earliest Christian centuries. Blessed by the diocesan bishop, they symbolise the prayer of the whole diocese and the whole Church throughout the ages. As we take them to our parishes and communities, and as we use them in baptism, in confirmation, and in our ministry to the sick and the dying, we remember with thanksgiving that our ministry is Christ's and the people to whom we minister are God's precious children, made in his image and likeness.

Reflecting on this unity of ministry and mission, in this service we are all invited to recall the public promises we have made to serve Christ in our respective ministries among God's people. On the threshold of the holiest days of the Church's year, we dedicate ourselves afresh to our life of service, and prepare ourselves too to enter into the remembrance of Christ's passion and death, and the celebration of his resurrection.

Music Before the Service

played by Richard Moore, Sub-Organist at Christ Church

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele (BWV 654)

JS Bach (1685–1750)

Setting of the Eucharist

sung by the scratch choir of clergy, LLMs and friends

Communion Service in F

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

The Sub Dean, the Revd Canon Peter Moger, welcomes all those who gather in their homes and in the cathedral.

If you are comfortably able, please stand to sing:

Processional Hymn



**O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me, my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.**

**O let me see thy foot-marks, and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.**

Words: *JE Bode (1808–1889)*

Music: *Wolvercote, WH Ferguson (1874–1950)*

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.**

The choir sings:

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy

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. The choir sings:

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, goodwill towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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

1 Samuel 16: 1–13a
read by Charnelle Stylianides,
Director of People for the Diocese of Oxford

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in.

Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

from Psalm 89

For ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the Lord.

Cantor Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

All **Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Cantor You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
'I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
'My hand shall hold him fast
and my arm shall strengthen him.

All **Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Cantor 'I will set his dominion upon the sea
and his right hand upon the rivers.
'He shall call to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation;"

All **Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Cantor 'And I will make him my firstborn,
the most high above the kings of the earth'.
The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever,
and my covenant will stand fast with him.

All **Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Please sit.

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 3: 17–4:12
read by Alexandra Hewitt,
LLM at St Mary the Virgin, Wheatley

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Please stand.

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.*

Gospel Reading

Luke 22: 24–30

*read by the Deacon, the Revd Kayleigh Lucas,
Curate in Prestwood and Great Hampden*

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

A dispute also arose among the disciples as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.'

'You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**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*
Copyright © 1996 *Sovereign Lifestyle Music*

Please sit.

Sermon

The Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester

After the sermon, please stand if you are able. During the following song, the Bishop's procession will move to the Shrine of St Frideswide, where they will lead us in renewing our commitment to Christ's ministry.

O my Soul, arise and bless your maker,
For He is your Master and your Friend.
Slow to wrath but rich in tender mercy;
Worship the Saviour, Jesus.

King of grace, His love is overwhelming;
Bread of Life, He's all I'll ever need,
For His blood has purchased me forever:
Bought at the cross of Jesus.

*And I will sing for all my days
Of heaven's love come down.
Each breath I take will speak His praise
Until He calls me home.*

When I wake, I know that He is with me;
When I'm weak, I know that He is strong.
Though I fall, His arm is there to lean on:
Safe on the Rock of Jesus.

Stir in me the songs that You are singing;
Fill my gaze with things as yet unseen.
Give me faith to move in works of power,
Making me more like Jesus.

Then one day I'll see Him as He sees me,
Face to face, the Lover and the loved;
No more words, the longing will be over:
There with my precious Jesus.

Words and Music: *Stuart Townend*
Copyright © 1999 *Thankyou Music*

Renewal of Ministerial Commitment

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. Some of us will be able to see the Shrine in person, some on screens within the cathedral, and some on screen at home; but wherever we are, we are all one in Christ, engaged in the same ministry, and invited to join in with the appropriate renewal of our commitment to ministry.

Please remain standing if you are able. 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. 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.**

Act of Remembrance

Please sit or kneel. We remember with thanksgiving the clergy who have died in the past year: John Reader, Leonard Onugha, Martin Davis, Bishop Alan Wilson. After symbols of ministry have been placed on the Shrine, the Bishop of Oxford lights four candles as symbols of their ministry and our continuing love and care. He prays:

Bishop Father in heaven, we give you thanks for all who have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. We give you thanks today for John, Leonard, Martin and Bishop Alan, for the example of their lives of faith, hope and love, for the grace you gave them and their ministry amongst us, for the blessings you brought through them. Receive them into the light and peace of your eternal kingdom; meet us in our sadness and turn our sorrow into joy for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

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.**

The Peace

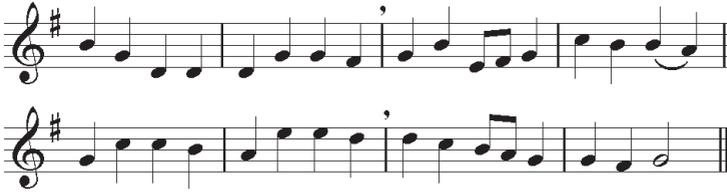
Bishop God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us,
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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 bishop's procession moves to the Sanctuary and the table is prepared.

Offertory Hymn



**God our Maker, God our Healer,
God of every time and place,
bless this oil we bring in worship
fruit of earth and sign of grace.**

**Bless, O Lord, those brought to baptism
set them free from all that's past;
shelter them with your protection
bring them to your home at last.**

**Bless, O Lord, those seeking healing
in your presence give them peace;
hands of skill and hands of comfort
suffering's end and pain's release.**

**Bless, O Lord, those called to service,
guide their steps upon the way.
Send them out to share your Gospel,
love your people, work and pray.**

**Bless these oils as signs of blessing:
freedom, healing, gladdened hearts;
bring by them your living Presence
blessing that your love imparts.**

**To the Father be the glory
to the Spirit and the Son;
may we sing our joyful praises
while eternal ages run.**

Words: *PJ White (b. 1986)*

Music: *Cross of Jesus, John Stainer (1840–1901)*

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.**

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:

The Choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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.**

Agnus Dei

The Choir sings the Agnus Dei.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

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 worship songs.

Anthem

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and first earth had passed away, and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying: 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people; and God himself shall be with them and be their God; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.'

Words: *Revelation 21: 1–4*

Music: *Edgar Bainton (1880–1956)*

Songs

**I will offer up my life in spirit and truth,
pouring out the oil of love as my worship to you.
In surrender I must give my every part;
Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart.**

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
to so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
as a praise of your name for the things you have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part,
of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.*

**You deserve my every breath for you've paid the great cost;
giving up your life to death, even death on a cross.
You took all my shame away, there defeated my sin,
opened up the gates of heaven, and have beckoned me in.**

Words and Music: *Matt Redman*
Copyright © 1995 *Thankyou Music*

**Worthy of every song we could ever sing,
worthy of all the praise we could ever bring,
worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
we live for you.**

**Jesus, the name above every other name,
Jesus, the only one who could ever save,
worthy of every breath we could ever breathe,
we live for you; we live for you.**

**Holy; there is no one like you; there is none beside you;
open up my eyes in wonder.
Show me who you are and fill me with your heart
and lead me in your love to those around me.**

***I will build my life upon your love;
it is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in you alone
and I will not be shaken.***

Words and Music: *Pat Barrett, Matt Redman,
Kirby Kaple, Brett Steven, Karl Martin*
Copyright © 2016 Thankyou Music

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.



**Church of God, elect and glorious,
 holy nation, chosen race;
 called as God's own special people,
 royal priests and heirs of grace:
 know the purpose of your calling,
 show to all his mighty deeds;
 tell of love which knows no limits,
 grace which meets all human needs.**

**God has called you out of darkness
 into his most marvellous light;
 brought his truth to life within you,
 strengthened you with holy might.
 Let your light so shine around you
 that God's name is glorified;
 and all find fresh hope and purpose
 in Christ Jesus crucified.**

**Once you were an alien people,
 strangers to God's heart of love;
 but he brought you home in mercy,
 citizens of heaven above.
 Let his love flow out to others,
 let them feel a Father's care;
 that they too may know his welcome
 and his countless blessings share.**

**Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service
sing his praise, his love declare.**

Words: *JE Seddon (1915–1983)*
© *Mrs M Seddon/Jubilate Hymns Ltd.*
Music: *Lux eoi, Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)*

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.**

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

Organ Voluntary

Marche héroïque

Herbert Brewer (1865–1928)

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.

If you have accepted the gift of a sapling, these are available to collect from the centre of the Cloister.

There is an opportunity to share coffee and pastries with colleagues over the road at St Aldate's. Please do join us there if you can.

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.

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

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 Baptised (*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, ordination, and 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.

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

Scripture readings are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Some liturgical materials in this service are copyright and reproduced here by permission:

Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000–2008.

CCLI Church Copyright Licence 262098, One License Church Copyright Licence A-733591

Eucharistic Prayer A © The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England / The Archbishops' Council.

... 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

The 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

as Priests in this Diocese

Christ Church Cathedral, 2.30pm

Sunday 28 April

Bishop Olivia will preside and the Venerable Christine Allsopp, ordained in this diocese in 1994, will preach. Clergy are welcome to robe.



DIOCESE *of* OXFORD

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes