

# Church at Home The Sixth Sunday of Easter

# Before the Service

A very warm welcome to the Diocese of Oxford's Church at Home service on the Sixth Sunday of Easter. We are delighted that you can join us this morning as we celebrate together from across the Diocese with songs of praise, prayers and reflections.

We are delighted that the Revd Canon Sue Booy, Rector of Dorchester Abbey, will be leading us in our service this morning; and that the Very Revd Prof Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, will deliver the sermon.

In these continuing uncertain times, we are reminded that God is always with us. His presence upholds us through dark periods, not only in our own personal lives but also in the world around us. Therefore, we gather together this morning online to worship, drawing on the gifts of many clergy and parishoners living across the Diocese of Oxford and beyond. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and for taking the time to make this form of worship fresh and meaningful.

We remember all those who are suffering during the coronavirus pandemic and also hold in our hearts all those who put their lives at risk to care for those suffering and to show compassion to the bereaved. We are thankful for all frontline workers playing so many vital roles to enable our country and our communities to function.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather together in faith and gratitude. May our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, guide us, lead us and care for us today and in the week ahead. Amen

## How to watch or listen to Church at Home

The direct link to this service is published at [oxford.anglican.org/livestream](https://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.

Church at Home is also available to people who can only access a telephone. The number to dial each week is **01865 920930** – press zero for the short service and 1 for the full Church at Home service. It takes a few seconds to retrieve the recording, then the service will start.

# The Gathering

*Opening Taizé chant: 'In Resurrectione Tua' (In your resurrection, Christ, heaven and earth rejoice)*

## Greeting

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

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

*President* Alleluia. Christ is risen!

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The Revd Canon Sue Booy, Team Rector, Dorchester Team Ministry,  
welcomes the congregation from around the Diocese for our Church at  
Home service for the Sixth Sunday of Easter.*

*We are invited to join in singing our opening hymn, 'Crown him with many  
Crowns' performed by members of the choir from St Mary's Church,  
Cogges, Witney.*

## Hymn

*All sing*

Crown him with many crowns  
The Lamb upon his throne  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own  
Awake my soul and sing  
Of him who died for me  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of peace  
Whose power a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease  
And all be prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end  
And round his pierced feet  
Fair flowers of glory now extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years  
The Potentate of time  
Creator of the rolling spheres  
Ineffably sublime!  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For Thou has died for me  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
Throughout eternity!

## Prayer of Penitence

*The Revd Canon Sue Booy introduces the Prayer of Penitence.*

*President* Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
And confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*All call to mind their sins in silence.*

*President* Father, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit:  
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 the God of love and power  
Forgive you and free you from your sins,  
Heal and strengthen you by his Spirit  
And raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

## The Collect

*President* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

*President* Risen Christ,  
By the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

## Hymn

*We are invited to join together to sing the hymn, 'Love Divine, all loves excelling', sung by Dorchester Abbey Choir, conducted by Jeremy Boughton, Director of Music.*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be:  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory  
Till in heaven we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before thee  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Reading

**Acts 17.22-31**

*Read by Jo Duckles, Senior Media Officer, Diocese of Oxford*

A reading from the Act of the Apostles.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

*Reader*                      This is the word of the Lord.

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

# Gospel Reading

John 14.15-21

*Read by Revd Mark Nelson, Curate in the Winslow Benefice.*

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

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

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Reader      This is the gospel of the Lord,  
All            **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.**



# Reflection

*The Very Revd Prof Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church*

## The Apostles' Creed

*Affirmation of Faith is presented by Jeremy Lasman,  
Warden of the Parish of Witney.*

*President* Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

*All* **Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the  
Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the  
apostles:  
This we have received,  
And this we believe.  
Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Our prayers today are led by Nadia from Witney Benefice and are from St Mark's Episcopal Church, Glendale, CA*

Let us pray for the Church and the world

**And thank God for his goodness:**

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

All you Holy Angels and Archangels,

**Stand beside us to guide and guard us on our way.**

Holy Mary, Mother of God: pray for us and the people of the world.

Lord, hear our prayer;

**And let our cry come to you.**

For all who have died as a result of COVID-19;

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,

**and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

For all who grieve the death of family, friends, and citizens;

Give them courage and strength to meet the days ahead,

O Lord, and the consolation of your love.

Pour out your healing grace on all who are sick, injured, or in need, that they may be made whole;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are afraid, anxious, or overwhelmed, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the sick and suffering; keep them safe and healthy; and grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy, and patience;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Send down upon our Queen; Prime Minister and all political leaders, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Give wisdom, creativity, and perseverance to all medical professionals, researchers, journalists, policy makers, and leaders as they respond to this pandemic;

**Hear us, O Lord of Life.**

Guide us in finding and developing the resources, medical skill, and political will to contain and end this pandemic;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Open our eyes to see that you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and that our life and death are with each other;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Open our hearts and hands to assist and care for those who will lose their jobs or be affected financially by COVID-19;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Give us compassion for those in need; patience in this time of distress; and love for our neighbours;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders:

You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

**And in your light we see light.**

Let us pray our own thoughts and prayers at this time.

*A period of silence follows.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*President* The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples  
and said, 'Peace be with you.'  
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.  
Alleluia!

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

## Preparation of the Table

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

*As Revd Canon Sue Booyes prepares the altar-table we sing together  
'Amazing Grace' with Revd Ben Phillips, Vicar of St Thomas', Goring, and  
Sarah Meyrick, Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.*

## Hymn

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord hath promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.

## 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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.  
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.  
You give us breath and speech,  
that with angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

*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.**

*President*      How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled

your love remained steadfast.  
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.  
On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All*

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

*President*

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.  
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with Mary, the Mother of Jesus,  
Frideswide, Birinus and all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
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

*President* With joy and faith let us pray as Christ our risen Saviour has  
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**



## Breaking of Bread

*President* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Anthem for reflection is by Thomas Tallis: "If ye love me" based on John 14:15–17, by singers from St Mary's Church, Maldon and directed by Colin Baldy.*

If ye love me,  
keep my commandments,  
and I will pray the Father,  
and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may 'bide with you forever,  
e'en the spirit of truth.

## Giving of Communion

*President* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Prayer after Communion

*President* 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.  
*All* **Amen**

## Hymn

*We are invited to join in the singing of 'O Jesus I have promised' from the Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge, directed by David Rowland.*

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 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.

Oh 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 footmarks,  
And in them plant my 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.

# The Dismissal

## Blessing

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

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

*All*                **Amen**

*President*      Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia!  
*All*                **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Organ Voluntary: Dr Francis Rumsey, Saint Mary's, Witney, plays the opening of Buxtehude's Praeludium in F, BuxWV145.*

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