

# Church at Home

## Second Sunday before Lent



# ***Before the Service***

“Come and see.” With just those three words, Jesus invites each of us into a lifelong journey of discovering who he is, and who he says we are. As a Diocese, we are using this invitation as an opportunity to consider, perhaps for the first time, perhaps for the thousandth time, the life Jesus invites us into. Each of us hears again those words: “Come and see.”

This week marks the start of two weeks of ‘ordinary time’ before we enter the penitential season of Lent. These two weeks allow us a moment to pause after the great celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany, and to catch our breath before we once again take on the journey to the cross. But these are not weeks without meaning; they offer us the chance to see God in the here and now, to recognise his grace all around us.

The readings in this week’s service speak to us of the God who “was from the beginning” but is also close to each and every one of us, the God who is at once transcendent and imminent. It is a delight to have the Bishop of Buckingham, Alan Wilson, preside at this service, and to have the Revd Hannah Hobday, vicar of St Peter’s, Earley, to share with us her reflections on today’s readings.

A huge thank you to all who have contributed to this service, whether through music or word or prayer. May we all hear again the invitation from Jesus to “come and see,” and may we be lost in wonder, love, and praise at that which we behold.

## Video before the service

Come and See  
The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford  
Clips courtesy of William Buckley

## Greeting

*President* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*President* Peace be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*The president welcomes the congregation gathered online and introduces the service.*

## Hymn

All My Days (Beautiful Saviour)

**All my days I will sing this song of gladness,  
Give my praise to the Fountain of delights;  
For in my helplessness You heard my cry,  
And waves of mercy poured down on my life.**

**I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,  
I will sing of the blood that never fails;  
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,  
Of death defeated and life without end.**

**Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,  
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,  
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.  
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,  
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion  
And You reign, You reign over all.**

**I long to be where the praise is never-ending,  
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;  
Where countless worshippers will share one song,  
And cries of 'worthy' will honour the Lamb!**

*Music and words: © 1998 Stuart Townend*  
Recorded by musicians from St Mary's, Chipping Norton

## **Confession**

*President* Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

## **Absolution**

*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.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*All*            **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

*President*    Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

*President*    Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things  
now and for ever.

*All*            **Amen.**

*We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.*

## Reading

Colossians 1.15-20 (NRSV)

*Read by Penelope Warner, St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford*

*Reader* A reading from I Colossians, verses 15 to 20.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

*Reader* For the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by thee:  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine;  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiancy divine;  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.**

*Music: Johann Gottlob Werner (1777-1822)*

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Sung by Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices

Directed by Simon Shaw, organist Dr Camilla Jarnot

## **Gospel Reading**

### **John 1.1-14 (NRSV)**

*Read by Revd Andrea Colbrook, Ridgeway Benefice*

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reader  
All

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

## Reflection

The Revd Hannah Hobday, vicar of St Peter's, Earley

## The Creed

President

Let us share, celebrate and affirm our faith in God.

All

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and  
the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**



**who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Led by Nadia Whiffin, St Mary the Virgin, Witney*

*The response to the prayers is:*

*Intercessor* Jesus, Lord of the church,  
*All* **in your mercy, hear us.**

*At the end we say:*

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

### **The Peace**

*President* Christ came and proclaimed the gospel,  
peace to those who are far off  
and peace to those who are near.

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

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

**Offertory Song**  
I will offer up my life

**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 this 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 the cross  
You took all my shame away,  
there defeated my sin  
Open up the gates of heaven  
and have beckoned me in**

*Words and Music © Matt Redman (1974-)*  
Led by Revd Drew Tweedy, Parish of Carterton

## Preparation of the Table

*President* Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

*All* **All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

## 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.**

*President* And now we give you thanks  
because you are the source of light and life;  
you made us in your image  
and called us to new life in him.  
Therefore with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
we proclaim your great and glorious name  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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* Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

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

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

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

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

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

*All*            **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*President*    As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
*All*            **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

*President*    Every time we eat this bread  
                  and drink this cup,  
*All*            **we proclaim the Lord's death  
                  until he comes.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

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

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

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence. Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

## **Music During Communion**

Speak O Lord as we come to you

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
To receive the food of your Holy Word  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us  
All your purposes for your glory .**

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of your purity  
Cause our eyes to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of pow'r that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us  
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built  
And the earth is filled with your glory.

*Music and words: © 2005 Stuart Townend & Keith Getty  
Recorded by Ian Butt, St Frideswide's, Water Eaton*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*President* Let us pray.

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

**Hymn**  
In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm**

**What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again**

**And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny**

**No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

*Music and words: © 2001 Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
Recorded by musicians from St Mary's, Chipping Norton*

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

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

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

*President*      Go forth into the world in peace;  
                      be of good courage;



hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*      **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Music after the Service**

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier

*BWV 731 – JS Bach*

Organist Ben Giddens,

courtesy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and

the Royal School of Church Music

Produced by Andrew Earis

Church at Home is a true team effort, drawing together the gifts of many from across the Diocese of Oxford. Some of those gifts are visible during the service, while others are seen only behind the scenes. Whether visible or invisible, the offering of so many gifts serves as a reminder of the beauty and variety of the Body of Christ.

Thanks this week go to those who have made this service possible:

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Church at Home is produced each week by the Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, associate chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford; and Steven Buckley, director of communications; with the help of Emma Thompson, digital communications officer, and Mark Robinson of Digital Creative.

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# COME AND SEE

**You're invited**

[oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see](http://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see)