

# Church at Home

## The Second Sunday of Advent



## Before the Service

**A very warm welcome to Church at Home this Second Sunday of Advent.**

We are delighted that our President is the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, and our address is given by Bishop Fredrik Modéus, Bishop of Växjö – Oxford's link diocese in Sweden. Further elements of our worship are the fruit of collaborations with our sisters and brothers in Växjö, as well as diverse churches and colleges across our Diocese. Many thanks to all who have contributed to lead us in worship.

Advent is a time when Christians are called to 'keep watch' – to be expectant and prepare for God's coming among us in Christ. Such watchfulness is about noticing God at work, and also noticing the ways our world falls short of God's intention. We anticipate God's coming by attending to injustice and brokenness; by confessing and lamenting; by committing ourselves to sharing the healing and wholeness revealed in Jesus.

One vast and appalling injustice which many have become newly-conscious of this year is **gender-based violence**. As the world retreated inside homes during lockdown, reports showed an alarming increase in violence against women and girls in their own homes, including in the UK. Families had no choice but to spend time together, with the situation made worse by restricted access to the usual means and routes of escape.

Since 2012, the Anglican Consultative Committee has called on all Anglican churches to mark the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (which runs from 25 November to 10 December) in liturgy, prayer and study.

Mother's Union – the 150-year-old Anglican network of women's groups – is a leading supporter and advocate for this UN campaign. MU's international work on gender-based violence has earned them a permanent seat at the United Nations on the Commission on the Status of Women. Here in the UK, including in the Diocese of Oxford, local branches of Mother's Union have been particularly involved in supporting women's refuges this year, and continue to campaign for improvements in the Law on Domestic Abuse.

Our service today takes up the call to mark the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, seeking to engage with this discomfiting yet necessary theme within our Advent prayers and preparations. At the end of our service, a short film from Mother's Union offers more details on their campaign, and how to find out more.

As we prepare to worship the living God, let us remember in prayer all who are victims of gender-based violence; let us lament the human cultures which perpetuate the sin of unequal gender relations; and let us resolve to not stay silent but to act to end it.

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

An abuser hits a human being made in the image of God: he hits that of Christ. This is and must be seen as a sin which permeates churches across the world, too often hiding behind so-called cultural norms which, if Jesus had followed those of his day, would have made for a very short Gospel indeed.

- Elizabeth Koepping

## Opening video

*We listen to contemporary songwriter and worship leader, Keiko Ying, sing her recent Advent song 'Take Heart'.*

Take heart, dear sisters,  
fear not, dear brothers,  
all you who yearn for the Lord;  
the night is long  
and the fight is hard,  
but know Christ has already won.  
And though we see the sun go dark  
and the moon give up its light,  
we'll know, when all the heavens quake  
and stars fall from the sky:

*He'll come in glory, glory,  
riding on the clouds.  
The night shall flee,  
and every knee  
will bow before his majesty and power.*

Take heart through trials,  
fear not, though fires may burn,  
you shall overcome.  
The pain of labour  
will soon be over,  
our cry will turn to a song.  
His word is true, our hope is sure,  
and the Spirit holds us fast;  
our waiting hearts will find their joy  
when Christ returns at last.

*Words and Music: Keiko Ying  
© Resound Worship 2020*

# The Gathering

## The Greeting

*President* Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*+Olivia welcomes the congregation from around the Diocese, and introduces the service.*

### Opening song – Longing for a hope-filled morning,

Longing for a hope-filled morning,  
Kingdom of the Son, draw near!  
Waiting for the day soon dawning,  
Light of love that casts out fear.  
Dayspring, come from heav'n, in lowly birth,  
Come to warm this cold, dark earth.

Sorrow through the world is sweeping,  
Bitter conflict rages still,  
Heaven hears its children weeping:  
cost of humankind's freewill.  
Come, O Prince of Peace, in lowly birth,  
Come to mend this broken earth.

Pattern of the world's salvation,  
God and human side by side.  
Creed or colour, race or nation,  
No more should the world divide:  
Come, Emmanuel, in lowly birth,  
Show how heav'n embraces earth.

*Words: Ally Barrett*

*Music: Picardy (French traditional carol)*

*Sung by Sally Rumsey and organist Francis Rumsey, Benefice of Witney.*

## Confession & Absolution

*President* A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

*All* God, through Jesus Christ,  
will judge the secret thoughts of all:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*All* Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'  
will enter the kingdom of heaven:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

*All* Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*President* May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

## Lighting of the second Advent candle

Led by members of St Clement's Church, Oxford

*We pray together:*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
the prophets said you would bring peace  
and save your people in trouble.  
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas  
and show all the world God's love.  
Amen.**

## The Collect

*President* O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Reading

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

*Read by Rajiv Sidhu, Ordinand, Ripon College Cuddesdon*

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'  
See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual hymn – Bereden väg för Herran (Prepare the way, O Zion)**

English Translation:

Prepare the way, O Zion;  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.  
Oh, blessed is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name!

He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, peace and love  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding  
Oh, blessed is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name!

*Words: Frans Mikael Franzén (1772-1847)  
Music: Swedish folk song from Dalarna  
English words: Charles P Price (1920-1999)*

*Recorded in Växjö Cathedral, Sweden, with The Revd Julia Jonsson, Priest,  
Sten-Inge Petersson, Director of Music, Växjö Cathedral, Church of Sweden.*

## **The Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:1-8**

*Read by the Revd Claire Browes, Curate, Cowley St John*

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

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

## **Responsive Prayers**

*The President leads us in responsive prayers for the Holy Spirit to be at work in us.*

Come, Holy Spirit!  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Blessed are you, Spirit of faith,  
for you reveal a God in whose image  
female and male are equally made and blessed and loved.  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**



Blessed are you, Spirit of grace,  
for you fill the hearts of women and girls  
who dream of a life that is safe and free and joyful.  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Blessed are you, Spirit of peace,  
for you inspire the women and girls who work for a world without violence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Blessed are you, Spirit of courage,  
for you speak through the women and girls  
who question the patterns and challenge the causes of violence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Blessed are you, Spirit of integrity,  
for you call women and men to be partners for change, working together with mutual trust  
and respect.  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Lift up the lowly, scatter the proud  
and fight for the justice-workers,  
so that girls and women can flourish and thrive.  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Come, Holy Spirit, come to your beloved children today with freedom and with peace  
through Jesus Christ, who was born of the woman Mary, to bring abundant life to all.  
**Amen.**

## **The Address**

*Bishop Fredrik Modéus, Bishop of Växjö, Oxford's link diocese in Sweden.*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

*President* We say together in faith  
*All* **Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

*All* We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:  
**for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:  
*All* **for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
*All* **the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

*President* Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Led by Hannah Baylor, Ordinand and doctoral student  
researching the theology of sexual consent, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford.*

*This response is used after each petition:*

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

# **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

## **The Peace**

*President* God will speak peace to his people,  
to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*President* Let us offer one another a sign of peace

## **Preparation of the table**

*The president prepares the altar-table as we join with the Revd Ally Barrett and daughter  
singing her own composition:*

Come to God's table, for all is prepared,  
the bread that we offer is broken and shared,  
Christ's presence among us is food for the soul,  
reviving, renewing, and making us whole.

Come to God's table, and drink of the wine,  
the blood of the Saviour, in mystery divine,  
the cup of salvation both priceless and free,  
transforming God's people to all we can be.

Come to God's table, we come as we are,  
we bring all the burdens we've carried so far,  
in body, in spirit, in soul, mind and heart,  
to feed on the grace only God can impart.

Come to God's table! then go in God's grace  
to hold all the earth in a heav'nly embrace,  
sent out in the Spirit to tend and to care  
in thought, word and action, our life is our prayer.

*Words: Ally Barrett  
Music: Slane (Irish traditional)*

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*President* Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
make the frailty of our praise  
a dwelling place for your glory.  
*All* **Amen.**

## **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* 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.

*All*            Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 St Nicholas 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:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

All

## The Lord's Prayer

*President* As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*We pray with Åse Aronsson of the Diocese of Växjö and the Revd Christine Bainbridge of the Diocese of Oxford, as they say together the Lord's Prayer in Swedish and English:*

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.**

**Vår Fader, du som är i himlen.**  
Låt ditt namn bli helgat.  
**Låt ditt rike komma.**  
Låt din vilja ske,  
**på jorden så som i himlen.**  
Ge oss idag det bröd vi behöver.  
**Och förlåt oss våra skulder,**  
liksom vi har förlåtit dem som står i  
skuld till oss.  
**Och utsätt oss inte för prövning,**  
utan rädda oss från det onda.  
**Ditt är riket,**  
**din är makten och äran,**  
**i evighet.**  
**Amen.**

## Breaking of Bread

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

## Agnus Dei

*All* **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,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*We are invited to make a spiritual communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or actions required for this; only true desire, lively faith, and genuine love.*

*As we make our spiritual communion, take 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. If you find it helpful please join in this song celebrating God's love for each one of us.*

## Music during Communion – Way maker

*Led by members of All Saints Church, Marlow*

You are here,  
moving in our midst  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, working in this place  
I worship You  
I worship You

*You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are  
(x2)*

You are here, touching every heart  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, healing every heart  
I worship You  
I worship You

*You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are  
(x2)*

You are here, oh, turning lives around  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, and You are mending every heart.  
I worship You  
I worship You

*You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are  
(x2)*

Even when I don't see it  
You're working  
Even when I don't feel it  
You're working

You never stop  
You never stop working  
You never stop  
You never stop working  
(x4)

*You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness  
My God, that is who You are.  
That is who You are.*

*Words and music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu  
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## **Prayer after Communion**

*President*      Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*                **Amen.**

## **Final Hymn – God of Justice**

*Led by Holly, Amy, and Jez Spearman, St Clement's Church, Oxford.*

God of Justice, Saviour to all  
Came to rescue the weak and the poor  
Came to serve and not be served  
And Jesus, You have called us  
Freely we've received now freely we will give.

We must go, live to feed the hungry  
Stand beside the broken, we must go  
Stepping forward keep us from just singing  
Move us into action, we must go.

To act justly everyday  
Loving mercy in every way  
Walking humbly before You God.



You have shown us what You desire  
Freely we've received now freely we will give.

We must go, live to feed the hungry  
Stand beside the broken, we must go.  
Stepping forward, keep us from just singing  
Move us into action, we must go.

Fill us up, send us out  
Fill us up, send us out  
Fill us up, send us out, Lord. (x4)

We must go, live to feed the hungry  
Stand beside the broken, we must go.  
Stepping forward, keep us from just singing  
Move us into action, we must go.

*Words and Music: Tim Hughes  
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## **The Dismissal**

*President* May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen**

*President* Go in the peace of Christ.

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

## **Closing video**

*A short film from Mothers' Union about gender-based violence. Links to resources and further information can be found at [oxford.anglican.org/livestream](https://oxford.anglican.org/livestream)*

**#NoMore1in3**

## **Our special thanks go to all those who contributed to this service:**

The Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading; Bishop Fredrik Modéus, Bishop of Växjö; Hannah Baylor, Ordinand, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford; Rajiv Sidhu, Ordinand, Ripon College Cuddesdon; the Revd Claire Browes, Curate of Cowley St John; Åse Aronsson, the Revd Christine Bainbridge; Sally and Francis Rumsey of the Benefice of Witney, the Revd Julia Jonsson, and Sten-Inge Petersson of Växjö Cathedral; the Revd Ally Barrett, Chaplain of St Catherine's College, Cambridge; Becca and Lauren from All Saints Marlow; and Holly, Amy and Jez Spearman, St Clement's Church, Oxford. The Revd Lady Denise Brown, Acting Unit Coordinator, Prayer and Spirituality, Mother's Union Oxford.

This service was produced by the Revd Dr Philip Lockley, Curate of St Clement's Church, Oxford. The lead liturgist was Canon Toby Wright, Team Rector of the Benefice of Witney. Church at Home is produced each week by 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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