

Church at Home

All Saints' Day



Before the Service

Welcome as we worship God together from across the communities of the Diocese of Oxford during Church at Home on this All Saints' Day.

We are delighted that the President today is the Rt Revd Olivia Graham Bishop of Reading, and that our address is given by The Revd Keith Dunnett, Vicar at Christ Church, Abingdon. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed ideas, prayers and action to this week's Church at Home.

No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death:

One family, we dwell in him,
one Church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death.

(Charles Wesley)

All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls' Day both celebrate this mutual belonging. All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace, and for the wonderful ends to which it shapes a human life; it is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that sanctity may grow in the ordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary crises, of human living.

As we celebrate All Saints and remember the baptismal belonging of all Christians in Christ, we pray with and for the people of France, following Thursday's terrorist attack at a church in Nice, in which three people were killed. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thank you to all those from across the Diocese who have made this service possible, including clergy and people from Oxford, Reading, Gerrards Cross, Marlow, Cowley, Abingdon and Great Missenden.

Hymn

Our All Saints' Day service begins as we join with the choir of St Edmundsbury Cathedral to sing:

1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warrior cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gathering

The Greeting

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

All **Amen.**

President The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Bishop of Reading welcomes the congregation and introduces our service on All Saints' Day.

Prayers of Penitence

President Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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

President Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love
with all the saints in earth and heaven.
Knowing our unworthiness and sin,
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

All **Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

President Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria

*Sung by Maria Czepiel from the Choir of Brasenose College and her father,
Stefan Czepiel*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

The Collect

President Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Revelation 7:9-end

Read by Adrian Felaar, St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

Psalm 34

*Sung by the Community of the Sisters of the Church, Gerrards Cross using
words from A New Zealand Prayer Book He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*

*Taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
happy are those who find refuge in the Most High.*

1 I will give thanks to the Lord at all times:
God's praise will always be on my lips.

2 My soul will glory in the Lord:
the humble will hear and be glad.

3 O praise the Lord with me:
let us exalt God's name together.

4 I sought your help O Lord and you answered me:
and freed me from all my fears.

5 Look towards the Most High, and be radiant with light:
and your faces will not be ashamed.

6 In my affliction I cried out, and the Lord heard me:
and saved me from all my troubles.

7 Your angel O Lord keeps guard around those who fear you:
to rescue them in time of danger.

8 Taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
happy are those who find refuge in the Most High.

9 Fear the Lord, you that are God's holy people:
for those who fear the Lord are in want of nothing.

10 Strong lions suffer want and go hungry:
but those who seek the Lord shall lack nothing that is good.

Worship Song

We sing 'Build your kingdom here' with Caroline Slade, All Saints, Marlow

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit, come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your power in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause

We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray

Unleash Your kingdom's power
Reaching the near and far
No force of Hell can stop

Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ

We are Your church
We are the hope on earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here!
We pray!

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here!
We pray!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Read by Roman Lubos, Parish of Cowley

Reader Alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

All **Alleluia.**

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

The Address

The Revd Keith Dunnett, Vicar, Christ Church Abingdon

The Creed

President *Together in courage and hope let us profess the faith that sustains us in the words of the Creed:*

All **I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
Born of the virgin Mary
Suffered under Pontius Pilate
Was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
The Holy Catholic Church
The communion of saints
The forgiveness of sins
The resurrection of the body
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

The prayers are led by Elizabeth Webster, St Peter and St Paul Great Missenden

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

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

President Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Music

The choir of Keble College Oxford sing:

Rest Eternal grant unto them O Lord: and may light shine perpetual shine upon them.

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.

Thou that hearest the prayer: unto thee shall all flesh come.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord: And may light perpetual shine upon them.

President To you we come, Father of lights,
with angels and saints,
where heaven and earth unite.
May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

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 It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.
Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost,
restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.
In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.
Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

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 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.
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.

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.**

President 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.**

President Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

President 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

All **Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer 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 spiritual Communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are.

The Priest receives the Bread & 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 also 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 one of the following prayers, 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.*

Worship Song

With Ed Wiles, Christ Church, Abingdon, we sing Forever God is faithful

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise [2x]

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God we will carry on
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise [2x]

[2x]

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever

Sing praise, sing praise [4x]

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever

Forever You are faithful
Forever You are strong
Forever You are with us
Forever

Prayer after Communion

President God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

President May God give to you and to all those whom you love
his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy,
in this world and the next;
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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

As our worship ends, we pray for all those who mourn following the terrorist attack at Basilique Notre-Dame de Nice on Thursday.

Thanks to all those who made this service possible:

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**Gracious God,
comfort all those who grieve today,
and all those who are fearful,
that they may be sustained by your presence,
and filled with the hope of your peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**