

Church at Home

The Last Sunday after Trinity



Preparing for Worship

A very warm welcome to Church at Home for Bible Sunday. We are delighted that the Revd Katie Tupling, Disability Advisor to the Diocese, is presiding for us today from the chapel in Church House, and that the Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford, is preaching from his home.

The original Bible Sunday was initiated by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, and took place on the Second Sunday of Advent. That is why the beloved Collect for Advent 2 has its focus for the prayer that we should “hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” the Scriptures. Now, however, we celebrate Bible Sunday on the last Sunday of Trinity Season. Before the service begins, there is a video from the Pilgrim course on the Bible, featuring our very own +Steven back when he was Bishop of Sheffield!

Regardless of language or tradition, the Holy Bible is a way that all God’s children can experience the love and wisdom of God throughout the ages – and explicitly manifest in the person of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the wideness of God’s mercy as revealed to us in the narrative of the Scriptures in today’s service, and we hear the challenge to bring the story of God’s love afresh to each generation and culture. Our service reflects that as we hear the Gospel proclaimed to us in Swedish by the Revd Ulrika Zwaard of the Diocese of Växjö in the Church of Sweden, and then again in English by a member of St Mary’s church Witney, linked with Ulrika’s parish. We are also partly led in sung worship by the Junior Choristers of Kidlington Parish Church; by the Cogges Youth Worship Band; and by the Cathedral School. A reminder to us of our call to pass on the Good News of Jesus to each new generation.

Bible Sunday is also a valuable reminder that there are many Christians around the world who do not have access to the Scriptures. Our intercessions are led by a member of the Order of St Frideswide who also works for Open Doors, who seek to serve and support persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. May our prayer be for free access to the Bible for all who seek to know God better.

As we continue to worship through this time of pandemic, we pray that through our hearing, reading, marking, learning and digesting of God’s Holy Scriptures that we may find ourselves sustained, challenged, and equipped to clothe ourselves with love.

We want to thank everyone from across the Diocese and beyond who have made this service possible.

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 President welcomes the congregation on this Bible Sunday.

Hymn

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 grace 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.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Music: Blaenwern, W P Rowlands (1860–1937)

Prayers of Penitence

God calls us in the Scriptures to clothe ourselves in love,
in patience, forbearance and compassion,
and to forgive, as we have been forgiven,

We bring our sorrow and shame
for the times we have fallen short,
trusting in God's compassion, forgiveness and faithfulness.

For the times we have not loved our neighbours,
forgive us, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the people we have not welcomed into the Kingdom,
forgive us, Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

For the arrogance that has not seen your image in others,
forgive us, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

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.**

Peruvian Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest.
To God be glory forever.
Alleluia, Amen!

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading

Colossians 3: 12–17 (NRSV)

read by members of the Oxford Diocesan LGBTI+ Chaplaincy Team

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119: 9–16

read by Anna Samuels and Hannah Morris

- 9 How shall young people cleanse their way
to keep themselves according to your word?
- 10 With my whole heart have I sought you;
O let me not go astray from your commandments.
- 11 Your words have I hidden within my heart,
that I should not sin against you.
- 12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
O teach me your statutes.

- 13 With my lips have I been telling
of all the judgements of your mouth.
- 14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies
than in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments
and contemplate your ways.
- 16 My delight shall be in your statutes
and I will not forget your word.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:30–35 (NRSV)

*read by the Revd Ulrika Zwaard in Swedish
and Jeremy Lasman in English*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples concerning the end of all things:

‘Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

The Bishop of Oxford
The Rt Revd Steven Croft

After the reflection, we keep silence together for a few moments before affirming our faith together in the words of the Creed – words which have been said across the world for over fifteen hundred years in times of sorrow and of joy.

The Nicene Creed

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 Rebecca Coatsworth, Order of St Frideswide and Open Doors;

The Peace

President Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
to bind us together into one body
with many precious members united in our differences
and made one by the bonds of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Your grace is enough
More than I need
At Your word I will believe
I wait for You
Draw near again
Let Your spirit make me new
And I will fall at Your feet
I will fall at Your feet
And I will worship You here

Your presence in me
Jesus light the way
By the power of Your word
I am restored
I am redeemed
By Your spirit I am free
And I will fall at Your feet...

Freely You gave it all for us
Surrendered Your life upon that cross
Great is Your love
Poured out for all
This is our God

Lifted on high from death to life
Forever our God is glorified
Servant and King
Rescued the world
This is our God
And I will fall at Your feet...

Preparation of the Table

President Lord Jesus, Word of God,
you nourish us with your word broken open
and your body given for us.
As we receive you in our hearts through faith
may we enter into your life and daily grow in your likeness,
becoming ever more perfectly
the people you made us to be.
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 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:

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
who was and is and is to come.*

*Lift up his voice with the sound of singing,
lift up his voice in all the earth,
lift up your voice and give him glory,
for he is worthy to be praised.*

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 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
led by Deborah Ajulu

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 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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy upon us.**

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

Giving of 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 pause together to rest in the presence of Christ in us and all around us; trusting that wherever we are, however we are, whoever we are with, Jesus comes to meet us as he has promised. Jesus invites us to receive him in our hearts by faith; to unite our prayers and our wills with his; and to rest in his perfect and eternal love.

There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is true desire, lively faith and genuine love. So you are invited to come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to close your eyes, or to look at a picture; to pause the recording, or to listen to the music; to keep silence, or to pray one of the following prayers:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to thee. And since I can not now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate thee from me. May I live and die in thy love. Amen.

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.

Hymn

Christ Church Cathedral School

When I needed a neighbour,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,
Were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour..

When I needed a shelter
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?
And the creed and the colour...

When I needed a healer,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour...

Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour...

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Song

Lauren Harris, St Aldate's

I love You Lord; oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

*All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God*

I love Your voice; You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God.

All my life...

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Blessing

President God who made you and loves you
and in his Word calls you to follow him,
hold you in his grace
and strengthen you to speak his word to those around you;
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.**

Toccata

Music after the Service
Théodore Dubois (1837– 1924)
played by Professor Steven Grahl,
Organist of Christ Church Cathedral

We want to thank everyone from across the Diocese and beyond who have made this service possible.

Credits: Revd Katie Tupling, Diocesan Chaplain among Deaf People and Disability Advisor; Bishop Steven Croft; Junior Choristers of Kidlington Parish Church; James Lawbuary, Revd Ross Meikle, Revd April Beckerleg, and Revd Serena Tajima of the LGBTI+ Chaplaincy Team; Revd Philippa White; Anna Samuels and Hannah Morris; Revd Ulrika Zwaard; Jeremy Lasman; Rebecca Coatsworth, Order of St Frideswide and Open Doors; Cogges Youth Worship Band; Elizabeth Nurse; Deborah Ajulu; the Cathedral School; and Lauren Harris, Worship Director, St Aldates.

Producer: Revd Ross Meikle

Lead Liturgist: Revd Philippa White

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