

# Church at Home

## Christ the King



Dag Hammarskjold, former UN Secretary General, once said at the cusp of a new year, 'For all that has been, thanks. To all that shall be, yes.'

The festival of Christ the King stands at a crossroads, with one liturgical year behind us and the promise of a new year ahead, beginning with Advent next week, which will bring a new energy as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. It is a relatively new liturgical festival, instituted 95 years ago in 1925 by Pope Pius XI as he sought to respond to the increase in secularism and nationalism.

But today, let us look back over the year that has passed - and what a year it has been, with the spread of the Coronavirus across the world. There is much to lament about what we have experienced and lost because of the national lockdowns, but we must also practise the discipline of noticing and being grateful for the mercies and kindnesses that have been present. We hold all that has occurred this past year, and we lift it before Christ our King, whose kingdom we long for and are called to make present among us.

As such, here is an opportunity to give thanks for all who have contributed to Church at Home services since the very first, back in March. For all Church at Home services, thanks. To all that shall be, yes.

We give a special thanks to Bishop Steven, who presides for us this morning, and for the Revd Ian Biscoe from Emmanuel Church Bicester, who is preaching for us.

This service of Christ the King borrows liturgical elements from previous Church at Home services and from Diocesan school assemblies, beginning with the very first Call to Worship from March 2020. Let us be mindful of the words in that call: 'I lay at the foot of the Cross all my fears.' Those words echo as true today as they did in March, as they have done for centuries, and will echo true into the new liturgical year and beyond.

## The Gathering

*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.*

## Prayer of Preparation

*All* **Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*recorded by members of the benefice of  
Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious measure,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
O the vast, the boundless treasure,  
of the Lord's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;  
hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

*Words: Robert Robinson (1735–1790)*  
*Music: Nettleton, American traditional*

## **Invitation to Confession**

*You may like to adopt a prayer posture such as sitting with your head bowed, as we remember our brokenness and call to mind our sins.*

*President* Christ is the King who calls us to faithful service,  
but we have rejected his rule.  
Let us return to him with sorrow for our sins  
and trust in his mercy.

The kingdom is yours,  
but we have turned away from your justice.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

The power is yours,  
but we have trusted in our own power and strength:  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

The glory is yours,  
but we have sinned and fall short of the glory of God:  
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

*sung by the Graham family  
from St Andrew's Headington*

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

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus.  
To God be glory forever.  
Alleluia, Amen!

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

## The Collect

*President* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

*President* Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## Psalm 95

*Tone IV*

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.  
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving  
and be glad in him with psalms.  
3 For the Lord is a great God  
and a great king above all gods.  
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth  
and the heights of the mountains are his also.  
5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.  
6 Come, let us worship and bow down  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
7 For he is our God;  
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**First Reading**  
**Ephesians 1: 15–end (NRSV)**  
*read by Michelle Bailey-Wells*  
*from the Benefice of Witney*

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

**Song**

*recorded by the Waddesdon Church of England School  
Worship Band*

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.**

**And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.**

**He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.**

**And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.**

*Words: Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

*Music: Stuart Townend*

## **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 25:31–end (NRSV)**

*read by the Revd Dr Joanna Collicutt*

*Lecturer in Psychology and Spirituality at Ripon College Cuddesdon  
and Oxford Diocesan Advisor for the Spiritual Care of Older People.*

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

*All*                **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did



it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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

## **Sermon**

*Ian Biscoe,  
Team Vicar, Emmanuel Church Bicester*

## **The Creed**

*sung by Gill, Joel and Nathan Taylor from All Saints, Marlow.*

**Our Father everlasting  
The all creating One  
God Almighty  
Through your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Saviour.**

**I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus.**

**Our Judge and our Defender  
Suffered and crucified**

**Forgiveness is in you  
Descended into darkness  
You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high.**

**I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus.**

**And I believe in you  
and I believe you rose again  
and I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**I believe in the virgin birth  
I believe in the saints' communion  
And in your holy Church  
I believe in the resurrection  
When Jesus comes again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus.**

**I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus...**

*Words: Hillsong Worship  
Music: Hillsong Worship*

## Prayers of Intercession

*led by the Revd Ross Meikle,  
Curate in the Benefice of Witney*

### 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.

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

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. As once again we are separated from one another, we remember that peace is from the heart and from God. God's peace in the Spirit moves among us to unite us with one another and with all who have served God in every age, distant in time and space yet one in the Body of Christ.*

### Offertory Hymn

*recorded by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral in 2004,  
directed by Stephen Darlington,  
on the CD 'Favourite Hymns from Oxford' (Nexus)*

**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 thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless  
King through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Virgin's Son,  
the God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson  
trophies won which now  
his brow adorn:  
Fruit of the mystic Rose,  
as of that Rose the Stem;  
the Root whence mercy ever flows,  
the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
those wounds yet visible above  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime:  
Glassed in a sea of light,  
Where everlasting waves  
Reflect his throne--the Infinite!  
Who lives--and loves--and saves.**

*Words: Matthew Bridges (1800–94)  
Music: Diademata, G J Elvey (1816–93)*

## 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* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son,  
risen from the dead and reigning as king over all things.  
For he is our eternal high priest,  
whose royal throne is in heaven  
and whose glory covers the whole earth.  
In the fulness of time all will be made new in his kingdom  
and the year that is past is held in his care.  
Out of sorrow he brings forth joy,  
out of weeping, laughter,  
and out of our separation, unity  
in his kingdom of justice and peace.  
And so with angels and archangels  
and all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join in their unending hymn of 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.*

*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 Birinus 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* 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.

*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.**

### Sung Prayer

*"God be in my head" sung by Oliver Bagshaw,  
accompanied by Gemma Mason, St Luke's, Reading.*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

*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.

## **Prayer after Communion**

*President*  
*All*

Let us pray.

**Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people,  
that we, strengthened by your gifts  
and called into the service of your Son  
the eternal King of all,  
may worship with whole hearts  
and with lives dedicated to you.**

## **Hymn**

*recorded by Streetsounds,  
from Warfield Church in Berkshire.*

**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.  
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.**

*Words: Chris Tomlin (b. 1972)  
Music: Chris Tomlin*

## **Blessing**

*President* Christ the King make you faithful and strong to do his will,  
that you may reign with him in glory;  
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.**

*End organ voluntary. Based on John 10:1-10 by Stuart King, organist at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough.*

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

Credits: Bishop Steven Croft; Revd Marcus Green and members of the Benefice of Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley; the Graham family from St Andrew's Headington, Michelle Bailey-Wells from the Benefice of Witney; Philippa White; Waddesdon Church of England School Worship Band; Revd Dr Joanna Collicutt, lecturer in psychology and spirituality at Ripon College Cuddesdon and Oxford Diocesan advisor for the spiritual care of older people; Revd Ian Biscoe, Emmanuel Church Bicester; Gill, Joel and Nathan Taylor from All Saints', Marlow; Revd Ross Meikle, curate in the Benefice of Witney; Oliver Bagshaw, accompanied by Gemma Mason from St Luke's, Reading; the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral; and Streetsounds, from Warfield Church in Berkshire.

Producer: Revd Ross Meikle

Lead Liturgist: Revd Philippa White