

*Christ Church Cathedral*  
OXFORD

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Service for the  
National Day of Prayer  
Sunday 22 March 2020



**DIOCESE** *of* **OXFORD**

*A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world*



# ***Before the Service***

To log on for the streams of this and other services around the Diocese:  
[www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/)

Many of us will never have joined in a streamed eucharist before and it will probably seem strange at first. These strange times call for new patterns and Archbishop Justin has challenged us to become a different kind of church.

There will probably be much sadness as we can no longer gather together in our familiar places with familiar people. Yet we are still the people of God. Going to church is not what makes us Christians but our love, prayer and service of the triune God, made known to us in Jesus Christ. Over the coming days and weeks, we need to be Christ's hands and feet in our world, sharing grace and practical kindness. At home or at work, self-isolating or looking after others, we can all do something to show our love. On this national day of prayer, we are called to pray and we do that with our Bishop, in our Cathedral, the Diocese's Mother Church.

Try to actively share in the service, not just have it on in the background. Join in the words in bold. You may not want to stand or kneel as usual but find a comfortable position that helps you and perhaps think about how you hold your hands, maybe holding them palms upwards to receive God's love and blessing. At the heart of the service is communion but communion we cannot physically share and so we are invited to each make a spiritual communion as the Prayer Book teaches.

May God bless you as we worship him together.



# The Gathering

*As we gather together virtually in our homes, Steven Grahl, the Cathedral Organist, plays J.S. Bach's 'Von Gott will ich nicht lassen' (BWV 658) from the Rieger organ at the West End of the Cathedral.*

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, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford welcomes the congregation from around the diocese.*

## Confession

*The Deacon, the Revd Philippa White, invites us all to confess our sins.*

Deacon The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

*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.*

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## 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.**

## The Collect

*President* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

*President* God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
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*

*Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.*

## **First Reading**

Psalm 23 (CW)

*read by the Sub Dean, Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey*

A reading from the twenty-third psalm.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

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

## Gospel Reading

John 19.25b–27 (NRSV)

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

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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

## Sermon

The Bishop of Oxford

*After the sermon 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.*



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

*On this day of national prayer across the country, our prayers are led by the Dean, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy. If you have a particular prayer request, please email it to [subdean@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:subdean@chch.ox.ac.uk) and we will pray all your prayers here at Christ Church over the coming week.*

Minister     Let us pray.

*You may like to adopt a prayer posture with your hands open and lifted up to God as we hold out all the prayers of our hearts to him.*

Minister     Lord, in your mercy  
All           **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers end with:*

Minister     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     Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

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.

*Here in the Cathedral we can't touch each other and that may be the same where you are, if family members have to isolate from one another or perhaps you are on your own. But peace is more than a handshake or a hug, it is something from the heart and, whether with a warm smile, a nod, a bow or a face on a screen, God's peace in the Spirit moves among us.*

*Today Bishop Steven signs the peace to us in British Sign Language (BSL), taught to him by our Lead Chaplain amongst Deaf People, the Revd Katie Tupling.*



## Preparation of the Table

*The President prepares the altar himself and then takes the bread and wine.*

*President* Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

*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* It is indeed right and just,  
our duty and salvation,  
always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty and everlasting Father,  
whose hands enfold us all.

In Jesus Christ, your all sustaining love  
stretches out through the whole creation,  
bears our loss, becomes food for our souls.

Your Spirit calls us out with him  
into the wilderness,  
beyond familiar patterns  
and into something new.  
It binds the broken together,  
bridges our isolation  
and roots us in your hope.

And so from this mother church,  
through our villages and towns,  
your song of praise rings out.  
Each home becomes a church,  
beacons of service and of prayer,  
light against the darkness,  
with angels and archangels,  
to glorify your name:

*All*

**Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of hosts:  
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.

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

*President*

Jesus Christ is Lord.

*All*

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

*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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*President* In times of hope, in times of trouble,  
in times of sorrow, in times of praise,  
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.*

*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.**



## Giving of Communion

*The President says the Invitation to Communion.*

President Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*For most of us watching from home, this will be a very strange experience of being invited to Communion not through the physical bread and wine we can touch but a Spiritual Communion with the God who always comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is true desire, lively faith and genuine love.*

*Come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to listen to the organ or pray quietly one of these prayers to help you:*

My Lord and my God.

*Confession of St Thomas  
Jn. 20:28*

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 presence.  
Feed me with your body  
and unite me in your blood,  
that I may be your blessing  
to a world in need.  
Amen.

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 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.

*Traditional Anglican form  
for use by armed forces*

## Prayer after Communion

*President* Let us pray.

*A time of silent prayer is kept.*

*All*           **You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,  
and you have made yourself known  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Abide with us, we pray,  
that, blessed by your royal presence,  
we may walk with you  
all the days of our life,  
and at its end behold you  
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,  
one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### Blessing

*President* Christ the Good Shepherd lead you each day,  
surround you with his comfort and care,  
and equip you to be his lights in the world;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*           **Amen.**

*Deacon* Go in the peace of Christ.

*All*           **Thanks be to God.**

### Music after the Service

*played by Steven Grahl, Organist*

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren  
(Fugue on the Magnificat) BWV 733

*J S Bach (1685–1750)*

## Prayer for the Week

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing  
can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.



Here at Christ Church we will never stop praying for you (even if that means canons praying alone in their own homes) but today we want to pray with you, joining together over the internet with our Bishop and Christians across the Diocese.



*Torches, lamps, lanterns will all work well.  
One of our families is lighting their Swedish  
Advent star as a prayer of hope for both the  
UK & Sweden.*

## National Call to Prayer 7pm A Light in the Window

At 7pm tonight, the Archbishops have called on all of us to stop and pray for our nation.

Those who can, might like to place a light in their window.  
Please choose something safe, without any naked flames but which will shine out in hope, as this sign has so often done down the years in our country – a light against the darkness, a light that shows our hope, a light to bring hope to others.

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# DIOCESE *of* OXFORD

*A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world*

Many helpful resources, inspiring stories  
and ways to worship, reflect and live  
as faithful Christians in challenging times  
are all available on the diocesan website:

[www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/)  
[@oxforddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dioceseofoxford)

Next week's diocesan Sunday service  
comes live from St Aldate's, Oxford at 10.30am



## *Christ Church Cathedral*

OXFORD

For updated information  
on opening times, resources,  
sermons and reflections, see:

[www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/](http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/)

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St Frideswide, pray for us.