

# Church at Home

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter



# Before the Service

We are delighted that you can join us from across the Diocese to worship with Bishop Colin, the Bishop of Dorchester, from his home. He will be presiding over this morning's Church at Home service and celebrating the Eucharist. We will be hearing also from The Venerable Judy French, the Archdeacon of Dorchester, who will lead us in reflection on Jesus as the Good Shepherd from St John's Gospel.

This online service is brought to you by members of our Christian community, singers and musicians from across the Diocese. We thank them all for their uplifting and beautiful offerings. This service would not be possible without their talent and contributions. Assistance and gifts this week come from St Thomas Church, Goring; St Lawrence Church, Winslow; Schorne Team of Parishes; Warfield Church, Berkshire; Lambourne Valley, and St Mary's, Princes Risborough.

We are thankful that this online service affords us the chance to pray for all those who are suffering in these dark and difficult days. We especially remember those grieving from the loss of loved ones this morning. May they know that the risen Lord shines his light in our time of suffering and that he will always sustain us with his compassionate and healing love.

Let us now as, brothers and sisters in Christ, join together in this morning's worship. We draw upon our collective faithfulness and Christian witness to celebrate Christ's presence amongst us today and always. Christ is risen. Risen indeed. Alleluia.

We open today with a short film featuring the schoolchildren of Goring Church of England School. Join them in the stilling exercise as you ready yourself for this morning's service.

## How to watch or listen to Church at Home

The direct link to this service is published at [oxford.anglican.org/livestream](https://oxford.anglican.org/livestream) about an hour before the service starts at 10am.

Church at Home is also available to people who can only access a telephone. The number to dial each week is 01865 920930 - press zero for the short service and 1 for the full Church at Home service.

# The Gathering

## Greeting

*Bishop Colin welcomes us and says.*

*President* In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.  
The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you.**

*President* Alleluia, Christ is risen!

*All* **He is risen indeed.**

*Bishop Colin welcomes the congregation from around the Diocese.*

## Hymn

*We are invited to join in singing 'Be still and know' recorded by The Revd Ben Phillips, Vicar of St Thomas' Church, Goring and Sarah Meyrick, Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.*

*All sing* Be still and know that I am God  
Be still and know that I am God  
Be still and know that I am God  
I am the Lord that healeth thee  
I am the Lord that healeth thee  
I am the Lord that healeth thee  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust

## Prayer of Preparation

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

## Prayer 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* God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

*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 our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
Who died for us,  
Forgive us all that has past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. 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  
Amen.

## **The Collect**

*President*

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*All*

**Amen.**

## Hymn

*We are invited to join in singing 'The King of Love My Shepherd' sung by Robert and Gwen Brignall, members of the choir of St Laurence's Church in Winslow.*

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Reading

**Acts 2: 42-47**

*Read by The Revd David Meakin, Claydon Rural Dean & Rector of the  
Schorne Team of Parishes.*

The reading is taken from Acts 2:42-47.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

## Psalm 23

*Sung by The Revd Ben Phillipps, Vicar of St Thomas' Church, Goring and Sarah Meyrick, Lay Canon, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.*

The Lord is my shepherd,  
therefore can I lack nothing.

He doth lead me,  
where the green pastures grow,  
by the quiet waters of comfort.

He restoreth my soul and doth leadeth me  
in the path of righteousness for his Names sake.

Yea, I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil. For thou art my guide  
and thy rod and thy staff  
they shall comfort me.



## Gospel Reading

**John 10:1-10**

*Sung and read by Alison Jestico, Director of Finance, Diocese of Oxford.*

Reader Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Reader I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

*cf Revelation 1.17,18*

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Reader The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

Reader Hear the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you O Lord**

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Reflection

*The Archdeacon of Dorchester, The Venerable Judy French.*

*After the reflection we shall keep silence together for a few moments before affirming our faith together in the words of the Creed.*

## 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

*Our prayers today are led by The Venerable Christine Allsopp, from the Lambourn Valley Benefice.*

*To the words* Jesus, Lord of life,  
*All* In your mercy, hear us.

and at the end:

*All* Jesus, Lord of life  
**In your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers and be with us always.  
Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*President* The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said Peace be with you. Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.  
*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Preparation of the Table

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

*As Bishop Colin prepares the alter-table and takes the bread and wine, we sing 10 Thousand Reasons.*

## Hymn

*Performed and produced by Streetsounds,  
from Warfield Church in Berkshire.*

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name

And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name  
(repeat)

## 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* Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious 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* 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*            **Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*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 St John 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* 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.**

*All*            **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

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

*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.**

## Giving of Communion

*President*    Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

*All*            **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*We are invited to make a spiritual communion with God who comes to meet us where we are. There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is a true desire to receive Christ, a lively faith in Christ and a genuine love for Christ and his people.*

*As we make our spiritual communion we sing together 'Forever'*

## Hymn

*Performed and produced 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  
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  
Sing praise, sing praise, yeah

Forever, God is faithful  
Forever, God is strong  
Forever, God is with us  
Forever, forever

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

Sing praise, sing praise  
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever, God is faithful  
Forever, God is strong  
Forever, God is with us  
Forever (x 2)

## Prayer after Communion

*President* Let us pray  
Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ  
to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down  
his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

*We say together*

*All* **Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*We are invited to join in the singing of There's a Wideness in God's Mercy,  
sung by Robert and Gwen Brignall, members of the choir of St Laurence's  
Church, Winslow.*

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in His justice,  
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in Heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make His love too narrow  
By false limits of our own.  
And we magnify His strictness  
With the zeal He will not own.

Here is plentiful redemption  
In the blood that has been shed.  
There is joy for all the members  
In the sorrows in of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands  
Of new worlds as great as His  
There is room for fresh creations  
In the upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple  
we should take Him at His word,  
and our lives would be all gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

# The Dismissal

## Blessing

*President* The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
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, Alleluia, alleluia.

*All* **Thanks be God, Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this service in a variety of ways.

The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester. The Revd Ben Phillips & Sarah Meyrick, Revd David Meakin, Alison Jestico, the Venerable Judy French, the Venerable Christine Allsopp, Gwen and Robert Brignall, and Stuart King. The Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Associate Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford and Steven Buckley, Director of Communications for producing the service. The reproduction and broadcast of the hymns in this service paper falls within the provisions of CCLI 535160 and Limited Online Music License LE-0018115 both under the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. Images: Shutterstock reference 956833 Design: Gavin Micklethwaite Graphic Design

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# A Psalm for people like us

Psalm 23 has been a source of strength for thousands of years. Let's pause and say it every day at 11 am through this crisis we now face.

*When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in his hands...*

> **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

*When we are tired and confused...*

> **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

*When we are worn out with worry...*

> **He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

*When we are sick and afraid and if we lose those we love...*

> **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.**

*When we face difficulties today and we hope for a better tomorrow...*

> **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

*In the face of trouble & difficulty of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death...*

> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**