

Church at Home The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Before the Service

A very warm welcome to the Diocese of Oxford's Church at Home service on the Fifth Sunday of Easter. We are delighted that you can join us for this time of worship together. Today we celebrate not only the start of Christian Aid Week but also the 75th anniversary of VE day.

This morning the service is led by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, and the reflection comes from the newly appointed Archdeacon of Oxford, the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey.

As a former military chaplain, Archdeacon Jonathan shares with us his experience of working amongst our brave servicemen and women, and we remember particularly this morning those who gave their lives in WWII and other wars for our freedom.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this Church at Home service. Once again, the service includes amazing contributions and gifts from across the Diocese: from Reading, Princes Risborough, Wokingham, Headington; and from our link Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman, South Africa.

We hold in our prayers all those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit from the impact of the coronavirus and pray that the Lord God may bring comfort, care and healing to them in their time of darkness and distress. Coronavirus impacts all of us but love unites us all, and this week we open our service with the Christian Aid film *Let us Love*. At the end of the service there will be an opportunity to donate to Christian Aid Week, please give what you can.

As the pandemic spreads across the world, love rises up in response. So, let us keep in mind Christian Aid's motto 'Life before death' as we prepare to worship as brothers and sisters in Christ, celebrating the compassion and love of the risen Lord and his presence with us this morning. Amen.

How to watch or listen to Church at Home

The link to this service is published at oxford.anglican.org/livestream at around 9am on Sunday. The service is also available using your telephone. Dial 01865 920930 and select the preferred option.

The Gathering

Greeting

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

All **Amen.**

President Peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

President Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Bishop Steven welcomes the congregation from around the Diocese for the Church at Home service on the fifth Sunday of Easter.

We are invited to join in singing 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today' performed by the choir of St Paul's, Wokingham.

Hymn

All Sing Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
But the pains that he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Prayer of Penitence

Bishop Steven introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

President God has blessed us,
but still God's children go hungry.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President God has blessed us,
but still the poor cry out for justice.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

President God has blessed us,
but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

The Graham family, from St Andrew's, Headington, leads the singing of the Peruvian Gloria.

All Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

To God be glory for ever.

All **To God be glory for ever.**

Alleluia. Amen.

All **Alleluia. Amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!

All **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!**

To God be glory for ever.

All **To God be glory for ever.**

Alleluia. Amen.

All **Alleluia. Amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!

All **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!**

To God be glory for ever.

All **To God be glory for ever.**

Alleluia. Amen.

All **Alleluia. Amen.**

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Acts 7.55–60

Read by Revd John Plant, National Church Relations Lead, Christian Aid.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

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

From Psalm 31

*Sung by Sophie Bagshaw and her mother, Gemma Mason,
from St Luke's, Reading*

I trust in you, O Lord,
for you are my God. (x2)

In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge:
Let me never be put to shame,
Deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.
Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold.

I trust in you, O Lord,
for you are my God.

Guide me and lead me for your name's sake.
Take me out of the nets that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

I trust in you, O Lord,
for you are my God.

My times are in your hand, deliver me from the hand of my enemies
And from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and save me for your mercy's sake.

I trust in you, O Lord,
for you are my God.

Hymn

We are invited to join in singing 'Come, Awaken Us' performed by musicians at St Aldates, Oxford, written by Dan Hames, Maddie Jones and Jamie Thomson, with lead singer Esther-Jane White.

Come among us, Holy Spirit,
lift our eyes up to the Son.
Pour the love of God the Father
into every waking heart.
Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
Raise our eyes
To things as yet unseen.

Holy Spirit, fall again on us.
Holy Spirit, come, awaken us.
Be the fire within our hearts.
Fall again on us,
be the fire within our hearts.
Come, awaken us.

God, we know you are among us,
breathe the embers back to life.
Break the walls that still confine us,
move in power once again.

Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
raise our eyes to things as yet unseen.
Holy Spirit, fall again on us
Holy Spirit, come, awaken us.

Be the fire within our hearts.
Fall again on us.
Be the fire within our hearts.
Come, awaken us.

Breath of life,
come sweeping through us.
Raise our eyes to things as yet unseen (x2)

Holy Spirit, fall again on us,
Holy Spirit, come, awaken us.
Be the fire within our hearts
Fall again on us, be the fire within our hearts
Come, awaken us.

Gospel Reading

John 14.1–14

The Revd Carol Starkey is unwell. Reading in her place this morning is the Revd Martha Seteso, Curate at St Cyprians Cathedral, Kimberley, South Africa.

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.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say,

“Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

Reflection

The Archdeacon of Oxford, the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey

The Apostles' Creed

President We are united with one another through our common baptism.
Therefore I invite you to join with me in proclaiming the faith
into which we were baptised.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator 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 children from St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Headington

This response is used at the end of each section of the prayers:

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'
Alleluia.

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

Bishop Steven signs the peace to us in British Sign Language.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

As Bishop Steven prepares the altar-table we are invited to join in singing the hymn 'When I needed a neighbour' performed by Revd Serena Tajima, Curate of St Luke's, Reading and her husband, Andrew Hayes.

Hymn

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
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

I was cold, I was naked
Were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked
Were you there?

And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

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
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

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
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there
Wherever you travel
I'll be there

And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
I'll be there.

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,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

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 We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

President Praise to you, Lord Jesus.
All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

President Lord of all life,
help us to work together until that day
when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thomas, Philip,
Stephen
and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the resurrection which renews God's creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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

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

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 wherever 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 listen to Ralph Vaughan William's "The Call" sung by the girl choristers of Merton College, Oxford.

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

*We are invited to join in the singing of 'O God our help in ages past' from
the Choir of Sheffield Cathedral.*

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;
Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.
Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.
A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
O God, our help in ages past,

Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

The Dismissal

Blessing

President May God bless us with strength to seek justice.
May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth.
May God bless us with love to bring forth new life.

And may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

President Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

End organ voluntary by Stuart King, organist at St Mary's Church, Prince Risborough.

A very warm thank you to all those who contributed to this service in a variety of ways:

The Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft; Peter Wells and the Choir of St Paul's, Wokingham; The Graham family from St Andrew's, Headington; Revd John Plant from Christian Aid; Sophie Bagshaw and Gemma Mason; Revd Serena Tajima and Andrew Hayes from St Luke's, Reading; Revd Martha Seteso from Kimberley Cathedral; The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey; the pupils of St Andrew's Church of England School, Headington; the choir of St Aldates, especially Dan Hames, Maddie Jones and Jamie Thomson, with lead singer Esther-Jane White; the girl choristers of Merton College, Oxford; and Stuart King from St Mary's, Princes Risborough.



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