

Church at Home on Easter Day



DIOCESE *of*
OXFORD

Before the Service

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Happy Easter from Bishop Steven who, together with Bishops Colin, Alan and Olivia, sends warm Easter greetings to all the people of the Diocese, and welcomes you into his home for this Eucharist on Easter Day.

At the heart of the Easter story is new life, God doing something new and unexpected which turns fear into hope and sorrow into joy. Today is an Easter Day like no other. It is a new experience for all of us not to be able to gather physically to celebrate Christ's resurrection, and it's also a cause of sadness. Yet as Christians we believe that our fellowship with each other isn't determined by place or physical contact; it is brought into being through the spirit of the Risen Christ, who is alive in each of us. So wherever we are on this Easter Day, we are united with one another as sisters and brothers of our Risen Lord.

This year we are also united with each other in prayer for those who are suffering as a result of the Coronavirus, and in remembering all who have died and those who mourn them. May our Saviour Christ, whose resurrection offers light to those in darkness, and healing to all who cry out in pain and isolation, bless us in our worship and in our love and care for one another.

As we gather we use Redemption by Tim Steward, which hangs behind the altar-table at Church House Oxford, to quieten our minds and focus our prayers as we listen to Benjamin Nicholas, Organist and Director of Music at Merton College, Oxford, play two Chorale Preludes for Easter by JS Bach (1685-1750): *Christ lag in Todesbanden* BWV 625 and *Jesus Christus, unser Heiland* BWV 626.

The Gathering

The Choir of Merton College sings part of 'Dum transisset Sabbatum' by John Taverner (1490-1545), a setting of Mark 16.1: 'When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus'.

During Holy Week, members of Merton College and St Andrew's, Headington have filmed themselves lighting candles. You may like to light a candle at home as you say, 'May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds'.

Greeting

Bishop Steven lights a candle and says

President May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

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 and then introduces the Prayers of Penitence. A time of silent reflection is kept.

Prayers of Penitence

President For the times when we have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your redeeming love. Lord, have
mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President For the times when we have only seen things through our own
eyes, and not in the light of your risen presence. Christ, have
mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

President For the times when we have lost faith,
and not lived in the hope of your resurrection. Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

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

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
All **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,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Acts 10.34-43

read by Maggie Frainier

*(doctoral student in Modern Languages and Music
at Merton College)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the crowd in Caesarea: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

*(recorded at last year's Easter Carol Service
at Merton College)*

All

**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 heavenly King, alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading

John 20.1-10

*read by the Revd Sally Prendergast
(Assistant Curate of St Mary's, Wendover)*

Deacon The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

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

Deacon Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary
Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been
removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and
the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know
where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set
out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together,
but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there,
but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and
went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and
the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen
wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple,
who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;
for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise
from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

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

The acclamation concludes after the Gospel

All **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!**

Lyra Davidica (1708)

Reflection

Bishop Steven

Response

The pupils and staff of Curzon Church of England Combined School sing 'Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you'.



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 baptized.

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 the Very Revd Prof Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, and the Revd Canon Dr Emma Percy, Chaplain of Trinity College, Oxford.

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

All Risen Christ,
hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President The risen Christ came and stood among the disciples and said,
 ‘Peace be with you.’
 Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. 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 (BSL).

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

As Bishop Steven prepares the altar-table and takes the bread and wine, we listen to the first verse of Stuart Townend’s, ‘See what a morning’, recorded by the Revd Marcus Green, Rector of Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley.

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 our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For Christ our paschal sacrifice
has made us children of the light,
rising to new and everlasting life.
He has opened the gates of heaven
to receive his faithful people.
His death is our ransom from death,
his resurrection is our rising to life.
The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world,
while the choirs of heaven sing for ever to 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 restored 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, Mary Magdalene,
Frideswide, Birinus 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 makes new God's creation,
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

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 the remainder of Stuart Townend's, 'See, what a morning'.

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Silence 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

We are invited to join the choir and congregation of Merton College in singing this Easter hymn which was recorded at a Sunday Evensong during Trinity Term last year.

All **Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.**

**How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him, from death's domains,
The long-imprisoned dead.**

**While joyful thus his praise we sing,
His mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.**

President May Christ
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
and 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.**

The hymn concludes

All **All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.**

St Fulbert of Chartres (d 1028)

Tr Robert Campbell (1814-68)

Benjamin Nicholas plays the first movement from the 'Organ Sonata' by Edward Elgar (1857-1934). This recording comes from his disc, 'Elgar Organ Works' (Delphian DCD34162).

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this service in a variety of ways. From Merton College: the Mercer family, Leah Collins, Jim Allen, Victor Ajuwon, Maggie Frainier, and Benjamin Nicholas; from St Andrew's, Headington, the Bingham family, Jenny Butler & Hugh Ferris, and the Graham family; Sally Prendergast; Martyn & Emma Percy; and Marcus Green. We are also indebted to Jacquie Coles, and the staff and pupils of Curzon Church of England Combined School; and Paul Baxter and Delphian Records (www.delphianrecords.com).

The as-live recording of this service was produced by The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, Chaplain, Merton College, in collaboration with Steven Buckley. 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: Tim Steward, front cover, Morwenna Buckley, back cover. Design 15NorthDesign.com.



DIOCESE of OXFORD

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



Next Service: Sunday 19 April

We are offering live streamed and 'as-live' worship for the Diocese on Sundays and Holy Days in the coming months to complement what is offered by local churches. This Diocesan prayer and worship is designed to be sustainable over the long haul, collaborative, creative, accessible to all traditions, and reliable. We are prioritising, not competing with, local church streams. Principal Diocesan services will be at 10 am each Sunday.

Online resources

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:

oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19