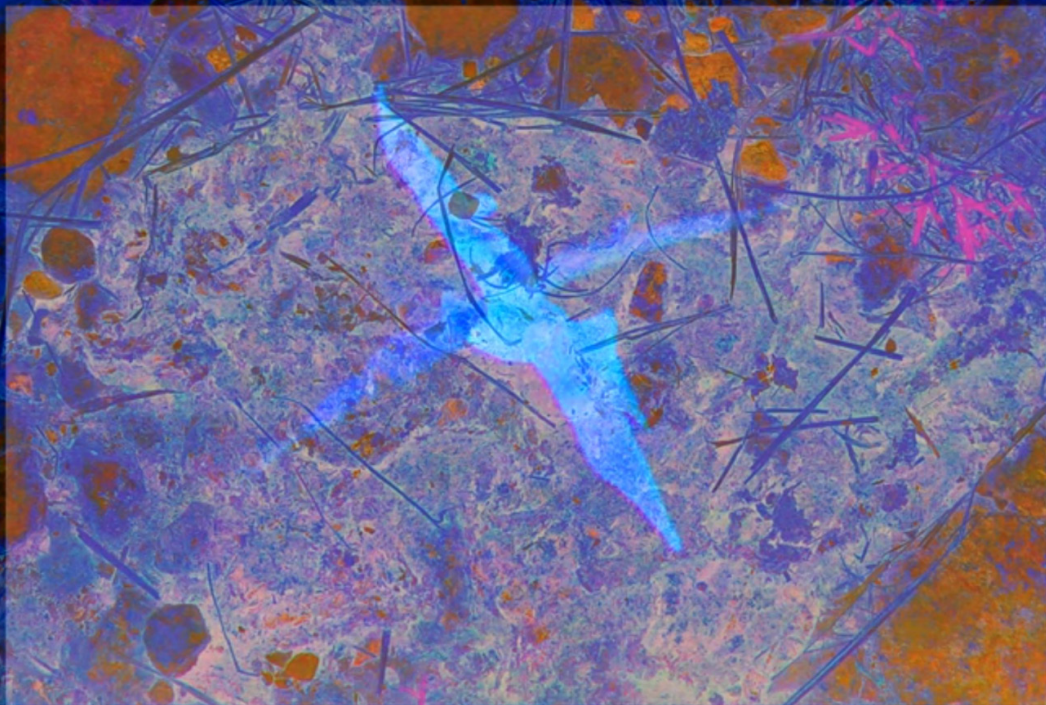


Church at Home

Pentecost



Before the Service

Welcome to this very special final service of Church at Home for the Diocese of Oxford. We are delighted that our president this morning is the Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Strawbridge and our preacher is the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft.

Since pandemic restrictions began, the Church at Home team have worked tirelessly to produce weekly services, bringing together a huge array of gifts and contributors from across the diocese. We have sung, prayed, lamented, rejoiced, opened scripture, celebrated the sacrament and lifted our hearts in worship together. We have been led by readers, intercessors, presidents, preachers, musicians, liturgists and many more, from homes, churches, offices, chaplaincies, schools, convents, cathedrals, colleges and playgrounds. Now, as restrictions start to lift, and many are returning to onsite worship in church buildings or moving to worship online with their local community, we want to celebrate all that God has done in and through the ministry of Church at Home and to give thanks especially for those who have come to faith, returned to faith, and deepened their faith through these services.

On this day of Pentecost, we celebrate God pouring out the Holy Spirit on the gathered disciples and pray that we also would be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit to be equipped to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ. God has given each of us gifts for the building up of the Kingdom and each and every one of these gifts will be needed as we seek to rebuild our communities and to build up one another in love.

We remember that physicality is no barrier to the Holy Spirit and God comes to meet us wherever we are because we are the Church, and the same Spirit which raised Christ from the dead is at work in us today. Renewed by the Spirit, we go forward now to continue to live out our calling to be a more Christ-like Church, filled with compassionate, contemplative and courageous disciples, for the sake of God's world.

Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Meditation Before the Service

Pentecost

Images, poetry and music by Tom Bower (St Mary and St Nicholas, Littlemore)

[Available online](#)

President In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

Greeting

President The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

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

Introduction

The president welcomes the congregation gathered online and introduces the service.

President Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.

We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord. And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

Responsory

Led by Year 6 (Shiplake Church of England Primary School)

All As we wait in silence,
fill us with your Spirit.

All As we listen to your word,
fill us with your Spirit.

All As we worship you in majesty,
fill us with your Spirit.

All As we long for your refreshing,
fill us with your Spirit.

All As we long for your renewing,
fill us with your Spirit.

All As we long for your equipping,
fill us with your Spirit.

All As we long for your empowering,
fill us with your Spirit.

Silence is kept.

Hymn

Veni, Creator Spiritus

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far from foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thine eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*Recorded by the Cuddesdon Consort
(Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford)*

Prayers of Penitence

President The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

President You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

President May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

The Splendour of the King (How Great is our God)

The splendour of the King,
clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice

He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One
Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names
He is worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art,
How great Thou art

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash 2004
Interlude: 'O Lord my God'
Swedish folk melody, words: Stuart K Hine (1899-1989)
Recorded by Revd Marcus Green
(Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley)

The Collect

President Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives to bring
Christ to the world.

Silence is kept.

President Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your
Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the

earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All

Amen.

We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

Reading

Acts 2.1-21 (NRSV)

Read by Benjamin H Johnson III

(licensed lay minister, St Mary and St Nicholas Littlemore)

Reader

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall

prophecy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

Gradual Song
Spirit Fall

You breathe life, you restore
Awaken my soul,
I know that I've been made for more

You speak truth, you renew
When I'm in your presence
You show me the glory of You

Spirit fall, Spirit fall
Fall on us for we are yours

You will make all things new
Until you return all creation cries out for you

There is power in your presence
Hope and healing in your presence
There is freedom in your presence
Spirit fall

Chris Lawson Jones, Nick Herbert, Susie Woodbridge
© 2014 Thankyou Music
Recorded by 4U Team (Marlow)

Alleluia

Cantor Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
 Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people;
 and kindle in us the fire of your love.
All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel Reading

John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15 (NRSV)

Read by Derek Lancaster

(licensed lay minister, All Saints' High Wycombe)

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

Reader 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.

You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

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

Reflection

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

President
All

Let us declare our faith in God.
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

Led by Aron West & Aaron James (Christ Church, Oxford)

Intercessor Loving God, on this day of Pentecost, we give thanks that you sent your Holy Spirit to be with us and bring your comfort and peace to all people.

We pray for the places in your world which are particularly in need of peace at this time; especially holding before you the needs of India, Israel/Palestine and Afghanistan. Bring to our brothers and sisters, in all places of pain and conflict, the gift of your comfort, healing and peace.

All **Come Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Intercessor Loving God, through your life you chose to share in our human experience with all its joys and challenges. We lift to you all who are finding life difficult today; especially those who are continuing to experience the effects of COVID-19, and all who are grieving or suffering in body, mind or spirit.

Give them knowledge of your presence with them through the days ahead and the reassurance that, even when we don't know how best to pray, your Holy Spirit prays within us with 'sighs too deep for words'.

All **Come Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Intercessor Loving God, on this day we celebrate how you poured out your Holy Spirit on the disciples, and the Church was born.

We give thanks that, even through the difficulties of the pandemic, you have given us ways for the church to gather, pray together and grow.

We give special thanks for the Church at Home services and for all from churches, chaplaincies and schools across the diocese who have contributed to them. As many communities return to worship in their buildings, we pray that you would help us to use our learning through this time to be a church which becomes more truly accessible to all as we gather as one body across the globe to worship you both 'onsite' and 'online'.

All **Come Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Intercessor Loving God, we bring before you our own lives and open our hearts to you again today. Fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit, inspire us and guide us in our faith and give us confidence to share the hope you give us with those we meet. Help us to know our own belovedness and equip us to bring your love to others in practical and prayerful ways. Equip us to be your church in the world and send us out to build your Kingdom of justice and peace.

All **Come Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love.**

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

President God has made us one in Christ:
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
he has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. Although we are separated by distance, we are one Body of Christ; the Spirit moves among us as we share Christ's peace.

Offertory Hymn

Come Down O Love Divine

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till they become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Words: Bianco Da Siena, Trans: Richard Frederick Littledale
Music: 'Down Ampney' Ralph Vaughan Williams
Recorded by the Cuddesdon Consort
(Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford)

Preparation of the Table

President Father by your Holy Spirit you keep the Church
in unity and truth.
As we break bread together,
may we be one with Christ in faith, hope and love,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

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 It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks because in fulfilment
of your promise you pour out your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,
and uniting peoples of many tongues
in the confession of one faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,
to proclaim your gospel to all nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.
Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,
to proclaim the glory of your name,
for ever praising you and singing:

All

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come,**

**Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.**

Holy, Holy by Nathan Fellingham (1999)
Recorded by Liam Cartwright and Philippa White
(Sacred, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford)

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.’

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary
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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

President Being made one by the power of the Spirit, 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 Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

Jesus, we enthrone you
We proclaim you are king
Standing here, in the midst of us
We raise you with our praise

And as we worship fill the throne
Come Lord Jesus, and take your place.

And as we worship build your church
Come Lord Jesus, and take your place.

Jesus, We Enthroned You by Paul Kyle (1995)
Recorded by Liam Cartwright and Philippa White
(Sacred, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford)

Invitation to Communion

President Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
All **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The president receives the bread and wine as we make our 'spiritual communion'; taking time to notice God's presence with us and trust that, as we desire communion with God, God will meet us in our hearts by faith. There are no special words or actions required for this; only true desire, lively faith and genuine love. If you find it helpful you may wish to use the following prayer, or simply listen to the music and meditate upon God's love for you.

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.

Music During Communion

There's a fire falling so open up our hearts
There are wonders working so open up our eyes
And see God what you're doing

It's time for breakthrough let healing come to pass
And in Your freedom we'll see the chains fall off
We'll follow where you're moving

Come Holy Spirit, fill us now
We need Your presence
O we need Your power
Come Holy fire, burn in us we pray

Ignite our hearts, so faith and hope arise,
Awake our passion, let worship be our cry

Set a fire down in my soul
that I can't contain and I can't control,
I want more of you God, I want more of you

Harvey Jessop, Joanna Alden, Jonny Alden, Pete Willmot

© 2019 Song Solutions Daybreak

Recorded by Greyfriars Worship

Featuring: Pete Willmot, Jo Alden, Jonny Alden,
Tim Seals, Bex Dodson, Nathan Hill

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Commission

President Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, we have gathered from across the Diocese of Oxford to worship together as Church at Home. We have sung, lamented, reflected and praised together; proclaimed God's mighty acts, and prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us. As many of us return to worship in our church buildings, or move to worship with other communities online, we give thanks for all God has worked within us as a dispersed community through this time, and we commit to living out the Gospel of hope we proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
will you dare to walk into God's future,
trusting him to be your guide?

All **By the Spirit's power, we will.**

President Will you dare to celebrate one another and grow together in love?

All **We will.**

President Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

All **We will.**

President Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

All **We will.**

President Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

All **We will.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Led by the Bishop of Oxford

Bishop May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters
when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

All **Amen.**

Bishop May the Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin
when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

All **Amen.**

Bishop May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire
upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

All **Amen.**

Bishop And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Bishop Filled with the Spirit's power,
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Video After the Service
Church at Home roll of thanks

To all of you, for worshipping with us – thank you.

Contributors to this service

turn the page for a full listing of contributors to Church at Home

the Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Strawbridge, St Andrew's, Headington; the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford; Tom Bower, St Mary and St Nicholas, Littlemore; Year 6, Shiplake Church of England Primary School; Hannah Grivell, Louise Watts, Chris Knight, Matthew Watts and Liam Cartwright - the Cuddesdon Consort, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford; The Revd Marcus Green, Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley; Benjamin H Johnson III, licensed lay minister, St Mary and St Nicholas Littlemore; 4U Team, Marlow; Derek Lancaster, licensed lay minister, All Saints' High Wycombe; Aron West and Aaron James, Christ Church, Oxford; Liam Cartwright and Philippa White, Sacred, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford; Pete Willmot, Jo Alden, Jonny Alden, Tim Seals, Bex Dodson and Nathan Hill - Greyfriars Worship, Reading; Fr Darren McFarland, St Andrew's, Headington.

The liturgist this week was Matthew Cheung Salisbury, and the co-producers were Revd Hannah Cartwright and Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker. Material for this service is taken from Common Worship, New Patterns for Worship, and Times and Seasons, © The Archbishops Council 2002, 2006, 2012. The reproduction and broadcast of the hymns in this service paper falls within the provisions of CCLI 535160 and Limited Online Music License E-0018115 both under the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. Images used during the broadcast were licensed from Shutterstock or sourced from Pixabay, no attribution required. Cover design by GMGraphicDesign.co.uk.

