

Church at Home

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Before the Service

Just over a year ago, as we found ourselves in troubled waters, we launched Church at Home – collaborative, livestreamed worship for anyone who needed it, in the diocese and beyond. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who has volunteered their talents and time this year, and to all of you who have supported the service - it's been a joy to worship alongside so many of you.

We look forward now to a different summer, with the ability to return to onsite worship on the horizon and with hundreds of churches now offering their own online services. Our final Church at Home will be on Sunday 16 May. We hope you will join us to worship together and pray for God's peace in whatever the future may hold.

oxford.anglican.org/parish-streams

This week's Church at Home brings together two vivid stories from the New Testament: Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch from Acts 8 and Jesus' declaration that he is "the vine" from John 15. These stories speak to us both of a God whose Spirit is powerfully at work among us and of the importance of our remaining connected to the work of the Spirit.

As ever, we are deeply grateful to all those who have contributed to this service. We are led this morning by the Revd Liz Jackson, associate archdeacon of Berkshire, with the reflection offered by the Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester.

Wherever you are joining us from this morning, our prayer is that you would encounter God afresh and hear the still, small whisper of his voice. Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Video before the service
'My eyes for beauty pine' by Herbert Howells
*Recorded by Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices,
directed by Simon Shaw, organ Dr Camilla Jarnot*

Greeting

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.**

President Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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

Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet,
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

Music: George Job Elvey (1816-1893)

Recorded by the choir of St Andrew's Church, Oxford

Confession

President Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

President God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us.**

President For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us.**

President For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us.**

President For letting ourselves be drawn away from you,
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us.**

President For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:

All **Save us and help us.**

Absolution

President The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment in life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Gloria

All

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God, in the highest.**

**Glory to God, in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

*Performed by the St Laurence Church choir, Winslow Benefice
Directed by Derry French*

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.

We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

Reading

Acts 8.26-40 (NRSV)

Read by Lucia Chuka, Berkshire

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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

Gradual Hymn

Blessed Assurance

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

Fanny Crosby/Phoebe Knapp

arr. Ben Waddilove

Recorded by musicians from St Mary's, Chipping Norton

Gospel Reading

John 15.1-8 (NRSV)

Read by Kira Holland, St Peter's, Maidenhead

Reader Alleluia, alleluia.
Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

All **Alleluia.**

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

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

Reflection

Rt Revd Gavin Collins,
Bishop of Dorchester

The Creed

President Let us affirm our faith in God.

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

*Led by Sarah Flashman, New Congregations Enabler,
Diocese of Oxford*

The response to the prayers is:

Intercessor We pray to the Father.
All **Hear our prayer.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always 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 Song
What a Beautiful Name

**You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God the Lord Most High,
Your hidden glory in creation,
Now revealed in You our Christ.**

**What a beautiful Name it is,
What a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a beautiful Name it is,
Nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus.**

**You didn't want heaven without us,
So Jesus You brought heaven down.
My sin was great, Your love was greater,
What could separate us now.**

What a wonderful Name it is...

**Death could not hold You,
The veil tore before You,
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring,
The praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.**

**You have no rival,
You have no equal,
Now and forever God You reign.
Yours is the kingdom,
Yours is the glory,
Yours is the Name above all names.**

What a powerful Name it is...

*Hillsong, Ben Fielding & Brooke Ligertwood
Recorded by the Marlow 4U worship team*

Preparation of the Table

President Creator of all,
you wash away our sins,
you give us new birth by the Spirit,
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.
As we celebrate the resurrection,
renew your gift of life within us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
the risen Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

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 Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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 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 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 We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

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.**

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 on behalf of the community 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

Be Still and Know

**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.**

Be Still and Know

Recorded by Sarah Meyrick & Revd Ben Phillips

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

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

Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to thy feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?**

**Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless;**

**Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise him for his faithfulness.**

**Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.**

**Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
Widely as his mercy flows!**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.**

**Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
Praise with us the God of grace!**

*Emu Music
Henry Francis Lyte arr. © 2018
Liv Chapman, Philip Percival*

Blessing and Dismissal

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,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

President Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Video after the Service

*'Erstanden ist her heilige Christ' (BWV 628) by J.S. Bach
Recorded by Steven Grahl, organist, Christ Church Cathedral*

Church at Home is a true team effort, drawing together the gifts of many from across the diocese. Some of those gifts are visible during the service, while others are seen only behind the scenes. Whether visible or invisible, the offering of so many gifts serves as a reminder of the beauty and variety of the Body of Christ. Thanks this week in particular go to those who have made this service possible:

The Revd Liz Jackson, associate archdeacon of Berkshire;
the Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester;
Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices, with Simon Shaw and Dr Camilla Jarnot;
the choir of St Andrew's Church, Oxford;
Derry French and the St Laurence Church Choir;
Lucia Chuka, Berkshire;
musicians from St Mary's, Chipping Norton;
Kira Holland, St Peter's, Maidenhead;
Sarah Flashman, New Congregations Enabler, Diocese of Oxford;
the Marlow 4U worship team;
the Revd Ben Phillips, vicar of St Thomas' Church, Goring, and Sarah Meyrick,
Lay Canon, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford;
Emu Music, Liv Chapman and Philip Percival;
Steven Grahl, Christ Church Cathedral.

The liturgist for this service was Revd Canon Toby Wright, area dean for Witney and team rector of the Witney Benefice. This service was produced by the Revd James Dwyer, curate at St Andrew's, Oxford.

Church at Home is produced each week by the Revd Charlotte Bannister- Parker, associate chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford, and Steven Buckley, director of communications, with the help of Emma Thompson, digital communications officer, and Mark Robinson of Digital Creative.

Acknowledgements: 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. Cover image: 'Grasparossa di Castevetro' by Stefano Zocca, courtesy of Unsplash. Opening image © Shutterstock. Images used during the broadcast were licensed from Shutterstock or sourced from Pixabay, no attribution required. Cover design by GMGraphicDesign.co.uk.

COME AND EAT

**Take time to contemplate the profound,
wonderful meal of Holy Communion.**

Series 6 of Bishop Steven's popular podcast is
available now. Listen online or search
'Bishop Steven Croft' wherever you get your podcasts.

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