

Church at Home for Maundy Thursday

8.15pm



Before the Service

A warm welcome from Bishop Colin to all those from around the diocese and beyond who will join him in his home tonight, as we continue our journey on the way of the Cross. Our churches may be locked and we cannot physically share in the Lord's Supper which we remember tonight but God still remembers us and blesses us where we are.

Our reflection today is led by Martyn Percy, the Dean. He cannot wash people's feet as we usually would but as he pours out water into a bowl this night, we bring before God in prayer all who give themselves in love to the service of others. We start our service at 8.15pm, a little later than once planned, to allow all who wish to share in #ClapForCarers and we particularly hold all front-line workers in our prayers tonight.

The service will be available on the following platforms:

- Vimeo: vimeo.com/405312991
- Facebook: facebook.com/diocesefoxford
- Website: oxford.anglican.org/livestream

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the Latin *mandatum*, which means 'commandment'. Jesus told his disciples, 'A new commandment I give to you – that you love another as I have loved you' (Jn. 13:34). We give ourselves in love and become Christ's hands and feet to a needy world.

The service starts off joyfully but as we follow Jesus from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane, the mood changes. In more usual times, in some churches, the altar would be stripped and the consecrated bread taken to a specially made garden with candles (known as an altar of repose), where a watch would be kept.

Tonight, the watch will be kept online. All are invited, as the disciples were, to watch and pray with Christ through his agony until midnight, on a separate livestream from Christ Church Deanery. Details, and a booklet of prayers to use as we watch in silence can be downloaded from oxford.anglican.org/livestream

Gathering

As we gather

Greeting

Alexandra and Ed Hewitt from St Mary's Wheatley play 'An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare'.

President The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

Bishop Colin welcomes the Congregation from around the diocese.

Prayers of Penitence

Bishop Colin and the Revd Gemma Beesley from Cowley Parish invite us to call to mind and confess our sins.

After each bidding a cantor sings the response and we repeat it back from our homes.

President Our Lord Jesus Christ says,
 'If you love me, keep my commandments.'
 'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.'

Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,
and ask him to refresh our weary feet.

Silence is kept.

Minister Lord, on this holy night you gave a new commandment
 that we should love one another:
 forgive us all the times we failed to care.

Cantor *Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.*
All **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

Gemma Lord, on this holy night you watched alone within the garden,
while all around you slept and turned aside:
forgive us all the times we have been selfish or afraid.

Steven *Christe, Christe, eleison.*
All **Christe, Christe, eleison.**

Gemma Lord, on this holy night you accepted the kiss of betrayal
when one you loved would no longer follow:
forgive us all the times we have chosen darkness over light.

Steven *Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.*
All **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

Absolution

President May the Father forgive you by the death of his Son
and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit
all your days.
All **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Please join in with the singers if you wish.

All **Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
Gloria, gloria! Gloria, Gloria!

Collect

President Let us pray that we may enter ever more deeply into the mystery of our Saviour's passion:

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end
and drank the cup prepared for him.
may we who share his table
watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NRSV)

read by Paul Pavlou

Curate, St Mary's, Bletchley

A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Beloved: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel Reading

John 13:1–17, 31b–35 (NRSV)

read by Gemma Beesley

Curate, Parish of Cowley, Oxford

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

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

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After Jesus had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them...

Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and

will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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

Reflection

The Dean
The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy

Prayers of Intercession

Our prayers tonight are led by the Revd Sally Prendergast from St Mary's, Wendover, and Margaret Horton and Elizabeth Dawson from St Helen's, Abingdon.

Please join in the simple Taizé chant after each bidding. The words are those traditionally sung this night for centuries, 'Where there is love and charity, God is there.'

Intercessor Christ has no body but ours,
no hands, no feet on earth but ours,
ours are the eyes with which he looks compassion
on this world,
ours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Ours are the hands, ours are the feet,
ours are the eyes, we are his body,
given in service of love.

And so as Christ's body, resting in his Spirit,
we cry out to the Father:

Abba Father, on this night your Son took a bowl of water and washed his disciples' feet.

May we always be ready to wash the feet of others in acts of love and practical care.

All **Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, deus ibi est.**

Intercessor Abba Father, on this night your Son's hands took bread and blessed it.

Bless our doctors, nurses and key workers.

Guide the hands

of all those who serve their neighbour.

Cherish to yourself those in need,

the sick, the suffering, the lonely and the despairing,

all who watch and wait and grieve.

All **Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, deus ibi est.**

Intercessor Abba Father, on this night
your Son prayed that his followers may be one
so that the world might believe:

Help us to see with your eyes.

Inspire us to look past old divisions

and find new ways of living as church and society.

Bring us together in compassion for your world.

All **Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, deus ibi est.**

Intercessor Merciful Father,

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

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.'

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

Bishop Colin and people from around the diocese sign the peace to us in British Sign Language (BSL), taught to us by our Lead Chaplain amongst Deaf People, the Revd Katie Tupling.

Wherever you are and whoever you're with, with family, on your own or even in shielded household isolation, remember that Christ's peace is more than a handshake or a hug. It is something from the heart and, whether with a warm smile, a nod, a bow or a face on a screen, God's peace in the Spirit moves among us.

Taking of Bread and Wine

President May this bread and this wine that we take
because you took it;
this story that we tell
because you lived it;
and this love that we share
because you gave it;
re-member us as your body
this night and always.
Amen.

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 to give you thanks,
Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For on this night he girded himself with a towel
and, taking the form of a servant,
washed the feet of his disciples.
He gave us a new commandment
that we should love one another as he has loved us.
Knowing that his hour had come,
in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples
to be a memorial of his passion,
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,
and feast with him in his kingdom.

All Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:
**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, that is this very night,
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.

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

**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 Jesus Christ is Lord.
All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

President Lord of all life,
help us to work together for 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, 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 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.**

**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

The President says the Invitation to Communion.

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.**

For most of us watching from home, this continues to be a very strange experience of being invited to Communion not through the physical bread and wine we can touch but a Spiritual Communion with the God who always comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is true desire, lively faith and genuine love.

Come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to listen or sing along with 'I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say', recorded specially by the boys from Christ Church Cathedral School on the last day of term before lockdown began.

Prayer after Communion

Colin Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence
the sacred mysteries of your body and blood
that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives
the fruit of your redemption,
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Journey to Gethsemane

Reading

John 13:21–30 (NRSV)

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

A lone voice sings verses from Psalm 22.

Usually during this part of the service, the altar would be stripped, readying us in heart and mind to walk the way of the cross with Christ on Good Friday. This year our churches are already bare, empty and locked.

In many churches the sacrament is taken to a part of the church, decorated as a garden, and there just, like in Gethsemane, disciples are invited to watch with Christ for one hour. This year a simple watch is kept in the Deanery by Martyn and Emma Percy. All who wish may watch virtually with them, live on Facebook.

The Dean reads the Watch Gospel from Luke 22:31–62.

Then voices sing the Taizé chant, ‘Stay with me, remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.’

‘Will you not watch with me for one hour?’

The watch is kept at Christ Church until midnight.

A separate live stream will immediately follow this service. For details, visit **oxford.anglican.org/livestream**

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DIOCESE of OXFORD

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

Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Week and Easter this year will be like no other we have experienced. Live-streamed worship will be available for everyone across the Diocese of Oxford, these services complement the prayers, meditations and worship offered by local churches. Visit oxford.anglican.org/livestream and find out how you can join in.

- > **Good Friday** A series of six short addresses from Bishop Steven with hymns and prayers. Available to download and listen to during the day.
- > **Easter Eve** 11 April 8 pm A night of prayer with fifteen short online acts of worship led by Christians from across the country. See rumoursofhope.co.uk.
- > **Easter Day** 10 am Diocesan Eucharist. Bishop Steven presiding.

Christ Church Cathedral

OXFORD

- > **Good Friday**
10am Liturgy of the Passion
Cathedral audio service with music, reflection, prayer and veneration of the Cross
- > **Easter Day**
9am Easter Sunday Eucharist
Cathedral audio service
President and preacher: The Dean

You can find our Christ Church Holy Week services, alongside much else, at chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship