

Church at Home

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity



Lightenings viii

The annals say: when the monks of Clonmacnoise
Were all at prayers inside the oratory
A ship appeared above them in the air.

The anchor dragged along behind so deep
It hooked itself into the altar rails
And then, as the big hull rocked to a standstill,

A crewman shinned and grappled down the rope
And struggled to release it. But in vain.
'This man can't bear our life here and will drown,'

The abbot said, 'unless we help him.' So
They did, the freed ship sailed, and the man climbed back
Out of the marvellous as he had known it.

Seamus Heaney

From "Seeing Things", 1991, © Seamus Heaney

Before the Service

Welcome to our Church at Home service on the Seventh Sunday after Trinity. The president at today's Eucharist is the Rt Revd Humphrey Southern. Bishop Humphrey is Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese. The address is given by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Olivia Graham. The service has been recorded in Cuddesdon's Edward King Chapel.

The Edward King Chapel was generously endowed by the Sisters of the Communities of St John Baptist and the Good Shepherd when they moved from Begbroke Priory to live in the College community in 2012. It is dedicated to Bishop Edward King, an early Principal of the College who subsequently became Bishop of Lincoln. He is commemorated in the Church of England on 8 March for his saintliness of life and courageous witness to the faith.

The architect writes of two key architectural inspirations for the building: 'The first is a gentle hollow in the ground as a meeting place for the community. The second is a delicate ship-like timber structure that rises into the treetops to gather the light from the leaves. The first idea speaks of ground, of meeting in the still centre. The second idea suggests an uplifting buoyancy, rising towards the light. The way in which these two opposite forces work off each other is what gives the building its particular character.'

The original proposal quoted the poem opposite and declared, 'The Chapel is the heart of any worshipping community. This vision for a new place of worship – with its use of light, space, glass, wood and stone – really captures our hope for the church and the world, and for the shaping of religious and spiritual life.'

This morning we are supporting the Disasters Emergency Committee's COVID-19 Appeal. Christian Aid is one of its members. The pandemic has badly hit a number of countries, including Yemen, Syria and South Sudan. The effects of this have been especially felt in refugee camps and amongst displaced people who have little access to medical care, basic food, shelter and water. By supporting the DEC appeal there is a chance of protecting millions of vulnerable people and saving many lives. At the end of the service there will be an opportunity to donate to the appeal online.

As we begin our service, wherever we are in the Diocese or further afield, we worship as one body in Christ.

The Gathering

As we prepare ourselves for the service we listen to a song sung by Year 6 pupils from Basildon CE Primary School.

The 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.**

The president welcomes the congregation and introduces the Prayer of Penitence.

Prayer of Penitence

A period of silence is kept.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

President May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Words: Christopher Idle (1938–)

Tune: Cuddesdon, William H Ferguson (1874–1950)

We sing together:

**Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people through the earth be given!
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,
singing alleluia to our heavenly king.**

**Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son!
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.**

**Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy One,
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!**

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Romans 8.26–end

Read by Jim Allen, a pupil at Abingdon School

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Sung by the Waddesdon Church of England School Worship Band

Words: Phil Wickham

Music: Brian Johnson

How great the chasm that lay between us?
How high the mountain I could not climb?
In desperation, I turned to heaven
and spoke your name into the night.
Then through the darkness, your loving-kindness
tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written,
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
to wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me his own.
Beautiful Saviour, I'm yours forever,
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free.
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in your name,
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise.
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
declared the grave has no claim on me.
Jesus, yours is the victory, whoa!

Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free.
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in your name,
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Jesus Christ, my living hope.
Oh God, you are my living hope.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13.31–33, 44–52

Read by the Revd Andrea Colbrook, Curate of the Ridgeway Benefice

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

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

Jesus put before the disciples another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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

The Address

The Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading

The Apostles' Creed

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 life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Led by Sr Clare-Louise SLG (Reverend Mother) and Sr Margaret Theresa SLG
of the Convent of the Incarnation at Fairacres, Oxford*

This response is used after each petition:

All Lord, hear us.
Lord, mercifully hear us.

After the final petition, the intercessions conclude:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The president prepares the altar-table and takes the bread and wine as we join the College Choir and congregation of Merton College, Oxford in singing 'Around the table of the King'.

Hymn

Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us:
and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of his sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, torn for you:
eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
paid the price to make us one.

So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of his sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you:
drink and remember
he drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.

So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of his sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond
and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as his Body here on earth.

As we share in his suffering,
we proclaim: Christ will come again!
and we'll join in the feast of heaven
around the table of the King.

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 Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels 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

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.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus.
**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 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, James, Frideswide
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 Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.**

Invitation to Communion

President God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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 Girl Choristers of Merton College, Oxford singing 'A grateful heart' by Mary Plumstead (1905–80), based on 'Gratefulness' by George Herbert (1593–1633).

Thou who hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart.
Not thankful, when it pleaseth me;
As if thy blessings had spare days:
But such a heart, whose pulse may be
Thy praise.

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup,
we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Tune: Blaenwern

Music: William Rowlands (1860–1937)

We join the College Choir and congregation of Merton College, Oxford in singing the final hymn.

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

The Dismissal

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

President The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
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.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Our special thanks go to all those who contributed to this service:

The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon; the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading; Jim Allen, a pupil at Abingdon School; the Revd Andrea Colbrook, Curate of the Ridgeway Benefice; Sr Clare-Louise SLG and Sr Margaret Theresa SLG of the Convent of the Incarnation at Fairacres, Oxford; Leah Collins; Benjamin Nicholas; the Waddesdon Church of England School Worship Band; the College Choir, Girl Choristers and congregation of Merton College, Oxford; and Year 6 pupils from Basildon CE Primary School.

This service was produced by the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, Chaplain of Merton College, Oxford; the Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Associate Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford; and Steven Buckley, Director of Communications; with the help of Ruth Hamilton-Jones, Internal Communications Officer; and Mark Robinson of Digital Creative.

The Gloria was recorded by the Choir of the Abbey School, Tewkesbury in 2001 (*The Complete English Hymnal*, volume 9, Priory Records).

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caid.org.uk/coronavirus



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COMMITTEE**