

# Safeguarding Sunday Service

A service to give thanks for and to commission  
those engaged in making our churches safe



Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford  
Sunday 19 November 2023

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England & New Patterns for Worship*  
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## **The Greeting**

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

*Bishop Steven Croft introduces the service.*

Let us pray.

Lord God, we give thanks to you for the work of PSOs and all involved with safeguarding within our worshipping communities and on our diocesan staff.

As we gather together, help us Lord to hear your voice amongst the noise, complexities, and misuse of power in the world. Help us to be still and receptive to your healing, empowering, inspiring, enduring, and life-giving Word.

**Amen**

## **Opening Hymn**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.

Words: *John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–92)*

Music: Repton, *Arr. from the oratorio Judith by C H H Parry (1848–1918)*

## The Confession

*We sit or kneel for the confession.*

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.

We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 8.22,23

*A short silence follows offering space for reflection.*

For the times when we have sought to protect ourselves instead of the most vulnerable.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the times when we have not listened to the voices of survivors.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For the times when we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The Bishop says:*

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

Read by Kate Wheatley, PSO, St Mary's, Maidenhead.

Psalm 139: 1-18

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

*You are invited to stand to sing.*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

*And I will trust in You alone...*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

*And I will trust in You alone...*

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## **Second Reading**

*We sit for the reading.*

Read by Sarah Varnom, PSO, St Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington.

Mark 12: 28-31

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Address**

*Bishop Steven Croft*

## **The Prayers**

*We sit or kneel for the prayers, led by Bishop Olivia Graham.*

*The prayers end with The Lord's Prayer.*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

## Hymn

*You are invited to stand to sing.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all men that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Words: *Sebastian Temple (1928–97), from a prayer of St Francis of Assisi (c. 1182–1226)*  
Music: Channel of Peace, *Melody Sebastian Temple (1928–97), arr. William Llewellyn b. 1925*



## **Safeguarding in our parishes**

*Please be seated.*

A short talk by Louise Whitehead, Head of Safeguarding  
and the Revd Sarah Sharp

## **The Commissioning**

*The bishop introduces the commissioning.*

*All the PSO's are invited to stand.*

Christ himself equips his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

You have offered your time and energy to serve as Parish Safeguarding Officers in churches, parishes, benefices and mission areas across the Diocese of Oxford.

We welcome your willingness to serve the church.

Will you commit yourselves to the work of caring for the most vulnerable in our churches and communities?

**By the grace of God, I will.**

Having received the light of Christ, will you seek to walk in Christ's light and reflect his light to those around you?

**By the grace of God, I will.**

Let us pray.

God, pour upon your servants your life-giving Spirit to guide and bring your wisdom, healing, courage and compassion.

May they delight in the work you have called them to and see the growth of your kingdom amongst us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Closing Hymn

*You are invited to stand to sing.*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee there.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish, 8th century, trans. Mary Byrne (1880–1931),  
versified by Eleanor Hull (1860–1935)

Music: Slane, Irish traditional melody, harmonised by Erik Routley (1917–82)

## **The Blessing**

*You are invited to remain standing for the blessing.*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**



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