

Church at Home

Easter Day



Before the Service

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

A very warm welcome to all of you from across the diocese, wherever you may be this Easter morning, and to our friends from the link dioceses. It is with tremendous joy that we celebrate today the triumph of God, revealed in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are jubilant because in Christ risen today our redemption is sealed, death defeated, and our hope is born.

After the bareness of Lent, in Eastertide - today and the following season of fifty days - we give thanks to God for raising His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from the dead. Easter marks the beginning of a journey of faith, hope and love, so our worship in Eastertide is characterised by joy. Traditionally, many of our churches would be richly decorated and the great paschal candle, the principal symbol of the risen Christ in a church, would be lit to stand as a sign of new life in Christ.

It is also characteristic of the Easter Mass that Christians join in a renewal of the rites of baptism, with water as a symbol of that ceremonial and spiritual purification. You may care to have some water in a little bowl, safely away from your digital device, to join in this act of renewal of vows at that point in the service.

If you are just discovering this weekly service for the first time or have been following the Come and See podcasts and daily emails, please feel most obliged to make yourself known to your local church using [A Church Near You](#). They will be delighted to hear from you!

We welcome with huge delight the Venerable Gavin Collins, the Bishop-Designate of Dorchester, as our president, and the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, our diocesan bishop, who will be delivering the reflection. We also take the opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to the many people from across the diocese and beyond who have contributed in various ways to make this service possible.

As Saint Augustine said, 'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song', so please do join in the service with great enthusiasm, as we celebrate the majesty of Christ and the faithfulness of God:

Because there is more to Christ than his humanity

- there is hope for the future

Because there is more to Christ than his pain

- there is life and love in abundance

Because there is more to Christ than his death

- there was and is resurrection

Inspired by *'The Crucified God'* by Jürgen Moltmann

For He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Video before the service

Exsultet

*Recorded by the Revd Philippa White
Precentor and School Chaplain, Christ Church, Oxford*

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.

Anthem

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.**

**Lord of all, to thee we raise
this, our joyful hymn of praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and Moon and stars of light**

**For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild**

**For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human (Given) and divine
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven.**

For the Beauty of the Earth
Music: John Rutter (1978), Words: Foliott S Pierpoint (1864)
Recorded by Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices and Junior Choir
director, Simon Shaw; Junior Choir leader, Fiona Penn;
organ, Dr Camilla Jarnot; photos, Stuart Scott.

Gloria in Excelsis

All **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. Amen.**

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President God of undying life,
by your mighty hand
you raised up Jesus from the grave
and appointed him judge of the living and the dead.

Bestow upon those baptized into his death
the power flowing from his resurrection,
that we may proclaim near and far
the pardon and peace you give us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
first-born from the dead,
who lives with you now and always in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

Reading

Acts 10.34-43 (NRSV)

Read by the Revd Sylvester Liyanage (Orëbro, Sweden)

Reader

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people, but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Reader

For the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord
For He alone is worthy
Christ the Lord
We'll give Him all the glory
Christ the Lord

O Praise the Name (Praise Medley)
Music and words: Hillsong Worship (2015)
Recorded by the Worship Team (Greyfriars Church, Reading)

Gospel Reading

Mark 16.1-8 (NRSV)

Read by the Revd Nicola Hulks (Thatcham Team Ministry)

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

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.'

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

Reflection

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft
The Bishop of Oxford

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Decision

President In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

President Do you turn to Christ?

All **I turn to Christ.**

President Do you repent of your sins?

All **I repent of my sins.**

President Do you renounce evil?

All **I renounce evil.**

President May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you strength to continue in the way.

The Prayer over the Water

President Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The president prays over the waters.

President Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

All **Saving God, give us life.**

President We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

All **Saving God, give us life.**

President We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

All **Saving God, give us life.**

President Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

All **Saving God, give us life.**

President Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith,
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and forever.

All **Alleluia! Amen.**

The Profession of Faith

President Let us affirm our common faith.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in God the Father.**

President Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in God the Son.**

President Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All **I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

President This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

President May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The president signs himself with holy water, reminding us of our baptism. You may wish to do the same.

The Thanksgiving for the Resurrection

President Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Let us praise and exalt him forever:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be to him who sits upon the throne
and to the Lamb for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**Great and marvellous are your works,
Lord God the almighty;
just and true are your ways,
King of saints;
all glorious your gifts, Spirit of life.**

**Blessing and honour
and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honour and praise and might
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

President For the gift of his Spirit:
All **blessed be Christ.**

President For the catholic Church:
All **blessed be Christ.**

President For the means of grace:
All **blessed be Christ.**

President For the hope of glory:
All **blessed be Christ.**

President For the triumphs of his gospel:
All **blessed be Christ.**

President For the lives of his saints:
All **blessed be Christ.**
President In joy and in sorrow:
All **blessed be Christ.**
President In life and in death:
All **blessed be Christ.**
President Now and to the end of the ages:
All **blessed be Christ.**

President Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise,
more than we can utter,
more than we can conceive,
be to you, O most adorable Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
by all angels, all peoples, all creations,
for ever and ever.
All **Amen. Alleluia!**

Lancelot Andrews (1626)

Prayers of Intercession

*Led by the Hansell family:
(The Revd Anupama Kamble-Hansell, Chaplain, St Edmund Hall,
University of Oxford; the Revd Dr Peter Hansell, Chaplain,
Bradfield College, Berkshire; Nathanael and Joshua Hansell)*

The response to the prayers is:

Intercessor Lord, in Your mercy,
All **Hear our prayer.**

At the end we say:

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

The Peace

President The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you', then were their hearts glad when they saw the Risen Lord. Alleluia!

President 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

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains that he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

Jesus is risen today
Melody from Lyra Davidica London 170
Words: Compleat Psalmist (1749)
Recorded by Francis and Sally Rumsey (Witney Benefice, Oxford)

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 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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and on this night of our redemption
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again
he has restored to us everlasting life.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
forever sound the hymn of your glory.

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 the blessed Virgin Mary,
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you forever,
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,
forever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Led by Gioia Chuka (Berkshire)

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 forever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

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 The risen Christ here stands among us,
to feed us with himself, his body and blood:

All **He is our salvation, our eternal glory.**

President If we die with him, we shall reign with him,

All **If we endure, we shall reign with him.**

President For he has broken the power of death,

All **And brought life and immortality to light through the
gospel.**

cf 2 Tim 2.11-13

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

**Here I am, humbled by Your Majesty,
Covered by Your grace so free.**

Here I am, knowing I'm a sinful man,
Covered by the blood of the Lamb.
Now I've found the greatest love of all is mine,
Since You laid down Your life,
The greatest sacrifice.

Majesty, Majesty.
Your grace has found me just as I am,
Empty handed but alive in Your hands.

Here I am humbled by the love that You give,
Forgiven so that I can forgive.
So here I stand,
Knowing that I'm Your desire,
Sanctified by glory and fire.
And now I've found the greatest love of all is mine,
Since You laid down Your life,
The greatest sacrifice.

Majesty, Majesty.
Your grace has found me just as I am,
Empty handed but alive in Your hands.
Singing Majesty, Majesty.
Forever I am changed by Your love,
In the presence of Your Majesty.

Majesty (Delirious)
Music & Words: Martin Smith, Stuart Garrard (1999)
Recorded by Matt Dixey (Greyfriars Church, Oxford)

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept

All **Author of life divine,
in the resurrection of your Son,
you set before us the mystery of his triumph
over sin and death;
may all who are washed in the waters of rebirth
rise to newness of life**

**and find the promised presence
of your abundant grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

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

President Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All **He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

President God has claimed us as his own.
All **He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

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

President God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
All **Amen.**

President God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
All **Amen.**

President God the Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
All **Amen.**

President And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

President

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead
at work within you,
go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn

**Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory,
thou over death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave
clothes where thy body lay.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness,
hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting.**

**No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.**

'Thine be the glory'

Words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932), 1884;

trans. Richard Hoyle (1875-1939),

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Music: *Maccabeus* (adapted from the oratorio by Georg

Friedrich Handel, 1685-1759)

Recorded by the director, organist, and choir of St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden

With huge thanks to all our contributors:

The Ven Gavin Collins, Episcopal Vicar for the Dorchester Episcopal Area (Bishop-designate of Dorchester); The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford; The Revd Philippa White, precentor and school chaplain, Christ Church, Oxford; Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices and Junior Choir, with Simon Shaw, Fiona Penn, Dr Camilla Jarrot and Stuart Scott; The worship team, Greyfriars Church, Reading; The Revd Sylvester Liyanage, Sörbykyrkan, Orëbro, Sweden; Francis and Sally Rumsey, Witney Benefice; The Revd Nicola Hulks, Thatcham Team Ministry; The Revd Anupama Kamble-Hansell, Chaplain, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford, The Revd Dr Peter Hansell, Chaplain, Bradfield College, Berkshire, Nathanael Hansell and Joshua Hansell; Gioia Chuka, Berkshire; Matt Dixey, Greyfriars Church, Reading; Wendy Harris and the director, organist and choir of St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden.

Our lead liturgist this week was the Revd Canon Toby Wright, team rector of the Witney Benefice. The producer was the Revd Dr Leonard Onugha, curate, St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, Reading.

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.

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