

# Church at Home

## Sunday Next Before Lent



# ***Before the Service***

Welcome to Church at Home this Sunday, as we celebrate and affirm together our belovedness in Christ. We are delighted that the Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott is preaching for us this morning and Bishop Steven Croft is presiding, as they join together with contributors from across the Diocese of Oxford who have worked to bring this act of worship to fruition.

As we mark Racial Justice Sunday, on this Valentine's Day, we are reminded that each and every person is made in the image of the God of love, who calls us to show his love to others in *all* our words, actions and relationships. We acknowledge that we still have much to do to ensure that all God's children know their belovedness and are affirmed in their unique personhood, gifts and calling. We especially wish to reaffirm our commitment to stand with our siblings in Christ who experience the sin of racism, and confirm our dedication to working together to end this grave injustice.

Throughout the pandemic, people across the globe have shown the love of God to one another in myriad ways: through solidarity, ceaseless prayer and costly compassion, as well as through astonishing acts of practical service. All these must begin with the recognition that each and every person is infinitely precious in the sight of God; that we are all loved, and loveable, just as we are. And that we are each invited to experience the transforming love of God in our lives and communities, through relationship with Jesus Christ.

In our Gospel reading today, we hear God speak of Jesus, saying: "this is my Son, the beloved". Jesus is the One who reveals the face of God to us; the One in whom we glimpse the glory of God; the One who invites us all to 'Come and See' what life can be like, living in the knowledge of God's love for us.

As we worship together this morning, will you open your heart to receive this love afresh?

## Front Cover

'Christ of the Flowers'

Yvonne Bell (Winslow, Bucks) [vestments.co.uk](http://vestments.co.uk)

## Video before the service

Racial Justice Sunday - Meet Revd Polly Falconer

[oxford.anglican.org/ukme](http://oxford.anglican.org/ukme)

## 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.**

*The president welcomes the congregation gathered online and introduces the service.  
As we prepare to worship God together, we pray:*

*Curate* Lord, turn me inside out,  
so people can see the you in me  
with the same shape heart,  
the same colour of blood  
and one word in our flesh that makes us like you  
revealing the image of God  
in our coats of many colours.  
Lord, I love from the inside  
what I see on the outside  
so may we love what we see  
and be loved for who we are:  
Brothers and sisters,  
united from inside out  
to turn the world upside down!

*All* **Amen.**

*Prayer by Richard Becher*

*Led by the Revd Leonard Onugha (Curate, St Barnabas, Emmer Green)*

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free  
to take away transgression  
and rule in equity**

**He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers  
spring in His path to birth  
Before Him on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go  
And righteousness, in fountains  
from hill to valley flow**

**Kings shall fall down before Him  
and gold and incense bring  
All nations shall adore Him  
His praise all people sing  
To Him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend  
His kingdom still increasing  
a kingdom without end**

**O'er every foe victorious  
He on His throne shall rest  
from age to age more glorious  
all-blessing and all-blest  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove  
His Name shall stand forever  
His changeless Name of Love**

*'Hail to the Lord's Anointed'*

*Music: Johann Crüger (1598-1662), Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

*Recorded by The Choir of Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes, accompanied by Adrian Boynton*

## Confession

*President* God loves all his children with a love that is stronger than death.  
Let us now lay before him those times  
when we have not loved him,  
when we have not loved our neighbours,  
and we have not loved ourselves.

*President* As our Father, you reach out to us in love,  
yet so often we turn away from your embrace.  
Forgive our failure to love you as you have loved us.  
Lord have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

*President* In Jesus, you came to bring life in all its fullness,  
yet we deny fullness of life to others through  
discriminatory attitudes and prejudice.  
Forgive our failure to love our neighbours.  
Christ have mercy.

*All* **Christ have mercy.**

*President* Your Spirit makes a home within us,  
yet we neglect to treat our minds and bodies with care.  
Forgive our failure to honour your image in ourselves.  
Lord have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

## Absolution

*President* Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## 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 wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
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.**

*We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.*

## **Reading**

Psalm 50.1-6 (NRSV)

*Read by Lewis Wanigasooriya (St Francis Assisi, Terriers)*

*Reader*      A reading from Psalm 50.

The mighty one, God the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silence,  
before him is a devouring fire,  
and a mighty tempest all around him.  
He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:  
“Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge.

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

## **Gradual Song**

**Speak to this heart  
of the Love that is my treasure.  
Love so unbounded,  
so faithful and so true.**

**Strength in my weakness;  
my comfort and my shelter,**

that stills my hunger  
and sets my soul at rest.

**Speak to this heart**  
of the cross that shows your mercy.  
**Steadfast in purpose,**  
the Christ was crucified.  
**Humbled and wounded;**  
all majesty surrendered:  
the Father's favour  
revealed in suffering.

**Speak to this heart**  
of the truth that is your gospel.  
**Death is defeated**  
and sinners reconciled.  
**My sure foundation,**  
the rock of my salvation:  
Jesus the Saviour  
has set this captive free.

**Speak to this heart**  
of the hope that is made certain.  
**Love's crowning glory,**  
the Lamb upon the throne.  
**Risen, exalted;**  
in this my heart rejoices:  
I live in Him  
and forever He shall reign.

*'Speak to This Heart'*

*Neil Bennetts © Trinity Publishing 2005*

*Recorded by Philip King and Margaret Parkin (St Matthew's Church, Oxford)*

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 9.2-9 (NRSV)

*Read by Ross Martin, LLM, (St Mary and St Nicholas, Littlemore)*

*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.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus,

“Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

*Reader* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

The Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott  
Vicar, Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

## **Affirmation of Faith**

*President* Let us declare our faith in God.

*All* **We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Led by Sr Margaret Theresa, Sisters of the Love of God (Fairacres, Oxford)*

*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* God is love,  
and those who live in love, live in God,  
and God lives in them.

*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 Song during the Preparation of the Table

**I keep fighting voices in my mind  
that say I'm not enough  
Every single lie that tells me  
I will never measure up  
Am I more than just the sum  
of every high and every low  
Remind me once again just who I am  
because I need to know**

**You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak**

**And you say I am held when I am falling short  
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours  
And I believe, Oh, I believe  
What You say of me, I believe**

**The only thing that matters now  
is everything You think of me  
In You I find my worth,  
in You I find my identity**

**Taking all I have,  
and now I'm laying it at Your feet  
You have every failure, God,  
You have every victory**

*'You Say'  
Jason Ingram, Lauren Daigle and Paul Brendon Mabury 2018  
Recorded by Revd Hannah and Liam Cartwright (Oxford)*

## **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*      You are worthy of our thanks and praise,  
Lord God of truth,  
for by the breath of your mouth  
you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of your delight.  
Though we chose the path of rebellion,

you would not abandon your own.

Again and again, you drew us into your covenant of grace.  
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,  
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore 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 God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

*All*            **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

*President*    Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end,  
he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

*All*            **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

*President*    On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he 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.

*All*            **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

*President* 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* **Amen. Lord, we believe.**

*President* Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection,  
his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

*All* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*President* As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

*All* **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

*President* Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth, heal the sick,  
let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.

*All* **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

*President* Gather your people from the ends of the earth  
to feast with Saint Valentine and all your saints  
at the table in your kingdom,  
where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in 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 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  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*Led by William Hunter (St James' Church, Cowley)*

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

*President*    Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
*All*            **we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

## **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*     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.**

*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 My Brother' ©1994  
Written and recorded by Ben Okafor*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*President*     Let us pray.  
*All*             **Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who share in the fellowship of his table  
reflect his life and love in word and deed,  
that all may know his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of Heav'n to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, 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,  
Nevermore 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 Heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*'Love Divine All Loves Excelling', Blaenwern  
Music: William Penfro Rowlands (1860-1937) Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Recorded by Revd Marcus Green (Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley)*

## Blessing and Dismissal

*President*     May the Father from whom every family  
                  in earth and heaven receives its name  
                  strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being,  
                  so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;  
                  and the blessing of God almighty,  
                  the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
                  be among you and remain with you always.

*All*             **Amen.**

                  Go in the peace of Christ.

*All*             **Thanks be to God.**

## Video after the Service

                  ‘Matthew’s Story’

Available online: [oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/](http://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/)

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Our lead liturgist this week was Fr Darren McFarland, vicar of St Andrew’s, Headington. The producer was Revd Hannah Cartwright, Oxford.

Church at Home is produced each week by 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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# COME AND SEE

**You're invited**

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