

Church at Home

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity



Before the Service

A very warm welcome to Church at Home this thirteenth Sunday after Trinity. We are delighted that the Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford, is presiding and that the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, is giving the address from her home. This Sunday we celebrate the theme of Nature and Creation and encourage churches to think about holding their own Climate Sunday services this autumn.

The cover features St Francis of Assisi, whose message is still as relevant as it was in Italy in the thirteenth century. He preached the Christian doctrine that the world was created good and beautiful by God but it was corrupted by human sin. St Francis reminds us that we have a duty to protect and enjoy nature. As it is said that St Francis preached to animals, birds and fishes, he became the patron saint of nature and ecology.

In light of the UN Climate Change Conference (Cop 26) and Climate Sunday, the Revd Margot Hodson, Director of Theology and Education at The John Ray Initiative, says: 'We have seen through the pandemic how disaster can strike our world. We are heading for a much greater disaster through climate change. By holding a Climate Sunday service this year, your church or benefice can celebrate the goodness and beauty of God's creation and heed St Francis' wise words about our world damaged by sin. We can explore this very practical aspect of our Christian faith and prepare to provide support for our communities to meet the challenges of an unstable climate and a suffering world.'

It is now a full six months since lockdown began in the UK and we started streaming Church at Home. We must continue to pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: all those who have died, those who mourn, those who are still ill, those who are frontline workers and everyone working to develop a vaccine. Lord, bless and sustain each and every one of those working for your kingdom.

We wish to thank all those from across the Diocese who made this service possible, including the members of the newly created Environmental Task Group. We are so very grateful for contributions from clergy and parishioners in Oxford, Bladon, Goring, the Shill Valley and Broadshire Benefice.

As we begin the service together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us hold in our hearts the words from Psalm 148.7–13:

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,

You mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,

Kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
young men and women,
old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

Amen.

The Gathering

Opening video: Holly's story on morality, faith and rebellion on climate change, on living with a lower carbon footprint.

The 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
and also with you.

Bishop Steven welcomes the congregation from around the Diocese and introduces our Climate Sunday themed service.

Hymn

*We join in singing the song from the album Doxecology by Resound
Worship written by Chris Juby:*

If the fields are parched and the trees are felled
will the rocks cry aloud on their own?

If the birds are starved and the beasts are killed
will the bones in the dust lift a song?

Have mercy, Lord
have mercy, Lord
forgive our broken ways.

Have mercy, Lord
have mercy, Lord
renew the world you made.

As the oceans rise and the wells run dry
Do we care if disaster is near?

If our children starve will they cry to God?
Will they curse us for closing our ears?

Have mercy, Lord
Have mercy, Lord
forgive our broken ways.

Have mercy, Lord
have mercy, Lord
renew the world you made.

Still a day will come when the Lord returns
And the earth will be perfect again.

No more greed or war, no more tooth and claw
For the wolf and the lamb will be friends.

Have mercy, Lord
Have mercy, Lord
forgive our broken ways.

Have mercy, Lord
have mercy, Lord
renew the world you made. (x2)

Prayer of Penitence

Bishop Steven introduces the Prayer of Penitence.

President Brothers and sisters in Christ,
as we prepare to celebrate our faith
in word and sacrament,
let us call to mind our sins.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
though negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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.**

The Collect

President Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

We join together with the Choir of Manchester Cathedral in singing:

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice 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:

Refrain

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and brain's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain

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

Refrain

For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

Refrain

For thy Church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
This pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Ezekiel 33.7–11

*Read by Jackie Davies, Environment Action Programme Manager for the
Diocese of Oxford and worshipper at St Martin's, Bladon.*

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Romans 13.8–14

Read by the Revd Margot Hodson, Associate Vicar of the Shill Valley and Broadshire Benefice and member of the diocesan Environmental Task Group.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 119.33–40

Sung by Peter McMullin and Julia Hollander, members of St Mary the Virgin's choir. Julia is also a member of St Mary's Green Team.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.
Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.
Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.
See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18.15–20

*Read by the Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Associate Priest at
The University Church of St Mary the Virgin and a member of
the Diocesan Environmental Task Group.*

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

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

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

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

The Address

*The Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading and
Chair of the diocesan Environmental Task Group.*

The Nicene Creed

All

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

President Let us pray for the Church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

The prayers are led by Paul Massara from St Aldates, Oxford and Maranda St John Nicolle, Director for Christian Concern for One World. Both are members of the Diocesan Environmental Task Group.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

President Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Bishop Steven prepares the altar-table

We join Sarah Meyrick, Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, and the Revd Ben Phillips, Vicar of St Thomas' Church, Goring, as we sing:

Be still and know and that I am God. (x3)
I am the Lord that healeth thee. (x3)
In thee O Lord I put my trust. (x3)

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 Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.
You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

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 How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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
All

Christ is the bread of life
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

President

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.
Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.
Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

President Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

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, saying:

President We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

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.**

We are invited to make spiritual communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church ever thought necessary is a true desire to receive Christ, a lively faith in Christ, and a genuine love of Christ and his people.

As we make our spiritual communion we listen to 'Immanuel, Psalm of Isolation' by Andy Flannagan (music courtesy of licc.org.uk).

We do not sit alone
we do not stand alone
we do not walk alone
we do not dance alone
unseen, unveiled,
Immanuel, Immanuel
our God is with us there. (x2)

We do not work alone
we do not cook alone
we do not drive alone
we do not clean alone
unmade, uncaged
Immanuel, Immanuel
our God is with us there (x2)

Word made flesh, this is Jesus
present tense, this is Jesus
word made flesh, this is Jesus.

We do not eat alone
we do not sleep alone
we not live alone
we will not die alone.

Unknown, unleashed
Immanuel, Immanuel
our God is with us there (x2)
Immanuel, Immanuel
our God is with us here. (x2)

Prayer after Communion

President God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no
more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

*Please join in singing with the members of Jubilate choir, of Shill Valley and
Broadshire Benefice:*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The Dismissal

The Blessing

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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ
Amen.**

We end the service with a video from the Church of England with a call to action on climate change.

If you want to find out more about the work of the diocesan Environment Task Group please contact Jackie Davies, the diocesan Environment Action Programme Manager via **environment@oxford.anglican.org**



For the latest diocesan *Pathways* magazine (with an environmental theme) please visit:

oxford.anglican.org/pathways-pdf-version

or order a copy:

store.oxford.anglican.org

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This service was produced by 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, Communications Officer, and Mark Robinson from Digital Creative.

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Reflections for a church in lockdown



Reflections for a church in lockdown is a series of reflective podcasts by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, which aims to resource the Church during the pandemic. Listen online, on Spotify, iTunes and Google Play.

blogs.oxford.anglican.org

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