

Church at Home

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity



Before the Service

A very warm welcome to the Diocese of Oxford's Church at Home: the Diocesan Service for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity.

The president at today's Eucharist is the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher Bishop of Dorchester and the address is given by Rev'd Verena Breed, Team Rector of Bicester. We are delighted that the Gospel is read this morning by the Rt Revd Eggoni Pushpa Lalitha, Bishop of Nandyal. Nandyal, which is located in the state of Andhra Pradesh, is one of our international link dioceses. Like us, it has been working on new forms of ministry during lockdown – and now both has an online presence through its cathedral and is beginning to re-open its church buildings, which are located in communities that range from large cities to rural villages. We pray for each other in these endeavours; the Church at Home service affords us a unique opportunity to connect with not only our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from around the diocese but also from around the world.

We are deeply grateful to all who made this service possible; for gifted readers, musicians, preachers and all who have contributed, including those from two schools in the Diocese, in Headington and Waddesdon; and from Radley, Oxford, Twyford, Bicester, Dorchester and India.

Although many of our churches are now open for limited worship it is wonderful that we can still gather 'online' together as a Diocese with Church at Home. We remember all those still suffering from the Covid19 pandemic and other countries who are still experiencing spikes in their infection rates. We pray for all those continuing to put their lives at risk working in the NHS and in the front-line service. And we pray for wisdom and guidance for all leaders in the world as we navigate this new reality and fight for justice and equality for all.

Our service opens with the words of Psalm 23, sung by the choir of Waddesdon Secondary School:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

The Gathering

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.

Hymn

*recorded remotely by the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church
mixed by James Potter*

**The church's one Foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy Bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.**

**'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.**

WORDS: *S J Stone (1839–1900)*

MUSIC: *Aurelia, S S Wesley (1810–76)*

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through 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.**

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

Mozarabic chant

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

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 Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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

Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading

Isaiah 44: 6–8 (NRSV)

read by Sam Pullen

from the parish of Radley

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86: 11–end

Tone IV

- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.
- 12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore;
- 13 For great is your steadfast love towards me,
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.
- 14 O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.
- 15 But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 (NRSV)

*read by the Rt Revd Eggoni Pushpa Lalitha
Bishop of Nandyal*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

*The Revd Canon Verena Breed
Team Rector of Bicester*

After the reflection, we keep silence together for a few moments before affirming our faith together in the words of the Creed – words which have been said across the world for over fifteen hundred years in times of sorrow and of joy.

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

*led by the Revd Robert Glenny
Rector of Radley, Sunningwell and Kennington*

Minister Let us pray.

*You may like to adopt a prayer posture with your hands open and lifted up to God
as we hold out all the prayers of our hearts to him.*

Minister Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

The prayers end with:

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

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.

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

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times, it may seem strange to 'share the Peace.' But peace is from the heart and from God. God's peace in the Spirit moves among us and unites us, physically distanced yet one in the Body of Christ.



Hymn

sung by the Headington School Virtual Community Choir

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

WORDS: *Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

MUSIC: *In Christ Alone, Keith Getty (b. 1974)*

Preparation of the Table

President Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.

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 truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death
with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.
And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending song of praise:

*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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.
All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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

The Lord's Prayer

President In times of hope, in times of trouble,
in times of sorrow, in times of praise,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

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.

Alone or isolated, alienated or sorrowful as we are, Jesus comes to meet us. Jesus invites us to receive him in our hearts by faith; to unite our prayers and our wills with his; and to rest in his perfect and eternal love. There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is true desire, lively faith and genuine love. So you are invited to come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to close your eyes, or to look at a picture; to pause the recording, or to listen to the music; to keep silence, or to pray one of the following prayers:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to thee. And since I can not now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate thee from me. May I live and die in thy love. Amen.

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.

Anthem

sung by the Choir of Brasenose College

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein anderer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott, alleine.

*Mercifully grant us peace,
Lord God, in our times.
For there is no other
who may strive on our behalf
but only thee alone, our God.*

WORDS: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Final Song

*sung by Mandy and Tom Green,
St Mary's Twyford*

**It's falling from the clouds
A strange and lovely sound
I hear it in the thunder and rain
It's ringing in the skies
Like cannons in the night
The music of the universe plays**

*You are holy, great and mighty
The moon and the stars declare who You are
I'm so unworthy, but still You love me
Forever my heart will sing of how great You are*

**Beautiful and free
The song of galaxies
Reaching far beyond the Milky Way
Let's join in with the sound
Come on let's sing it out
As the music of the universe plays**

*You are holy, great and mighty
The moon and the stars declare who You are
I'm so unworthy, but still You love me
Forever my heart will sing of how great You are*

**All glory, honour, power is Yours, Amen
All glory, honour, power is Yours, Amen
All glory, honour, power is Yours, forever Amen**

The Dismissal

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.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Music after the service

Benjamin Sheen, Sub Organist at Christ Church

Allegro con brio

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

We would like to thank all those who made this service possible, including:

The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester; Revd Canon Verena Breed, Team Rector of Bicester; The Rt Revd Eggoni Pushpa Lalitha, Bishop of Nandyal, India; Revd Rob Glenny, Rector of St James the Great, Radley, St Leonards, Sunningwell, and St Swithun, Kennington; Sam Pullen, from his congregation in Radley; the choir from Waddesdon Secondary School; the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, directed by James Potter; St Andrews Virtual Community Choir, Headington; the choir of Brasenose College Oxford; and Mandy and Tom Green from St Mary's, Twyford. The organ voluntary was performed by Benjamin Sheen, Sub Organist at Christ Church.

This service was produced by the lead liturgist Revd Philippa White, Succentor, Christ Church Cathedral and Steven Buckley with the support of Mark Robinson from Digital Media.

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How to face enormous problems

The Church in Philippi is a fearful and anxious church. Paul does everything he can in his letter to calm this anxiety, but he offers them something much more important than an answer. Listen to the latest episode of *Reflections for a Church in Lockdown*.

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