

Church at Home

Third Sunday of Easter



Before the Service

Welcome as we worship God together from across the Diocese of Oxford in Church at Home on the third Sunday of Easter.

We are delighted that our own Revd Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham, will be presiding for us. Our preacher is the Revd Will Pearson-Gee, Rector of Buckingham. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed ideas, prayers and action to this week's service. Contributions come from across the diocese: St Mary's, Chipping Norton, Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes, St Mary's, Greenham, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, the Benefice of Tilehurst, Reading, Finchampstead and California, Wokingham, and St Matthew's, Oxford.

This week, our Gospel passage shows the disciples reacting to the appearance of the Risen Christ - their fear and doubts are quelled by Christ's words. In our passage from Acts, Peter addresses the crowd having healed a lame man: he explains what the power of God can do through his followers and offers the opportunity to repent. Together these readings show us what it means to follow Christ and to be Easter people.

As lockdown restrictions lift and many churches across the diocese begin to meet again in church buildings, our thoughts and prayers remain with all those affected by COVID-19, those who are suffering or recovering from coronavirus, and those who remain isolated and unable to attend their local churches.

Images before the service
Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire
Sung by the choir of Keble College, Oxford

The Rt Revd Gavin Collins was consecrated as the Bishop of Dorchester this week.

“It was a deeply impactful moment as I prepare to take on my new ministry as a bishop” said Bishop Gavin.

Look out for the full photo gallery on the diocesan website from Monday 19 April.

The Gathering
He is Here
ReSound Worship

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.

Hymn

Amazing grace how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there 10,000 years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

Amazing Grace
John Newton (1779)

Performed by the worship group at St Mary's, Chipping Norton

Confession

President

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil,
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

All

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned,
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy,
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
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**

The Gloria

Gloria from the Missa De Angelis
*Performed by the clerks
of Christ Church Cathedral Choir*

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth to men of good will.
We praise You, we bless You,
we adore You, we glorify You,
we give You thanks for Your great glory.

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

Reading

Acts 3.12-19 (NRSV)

Read by Adam Edwards, St Mary's Greenham

Reader A reading from the book of Acts.

When Peter saw that the people had gathered together, he addressed them, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made this lame man walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

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

Gradual Hymn

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days have lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like the wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleep unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave was lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Now the Green Blade Riseth
John Macleod Campbell Crum (1958)
Performed by Adrian Yardley, Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes

Gospel Reading
Mark 24.36b-48 (NRSV)
Read by the Revd Polly Falconer
BAME Development Enabler for the diocese
and assistant curate in the Benefice of Tilehurst

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

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Deacon
All

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

Reflection

The Revd Will Pearson-Gee
Rector of Buckingham Parish Church

Affirmation of Faith

President

Let us affirm our faith in God.

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

*Lead by Beverley Mitchell-Wright
Parish of Finchampstead and California*

Reader In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us all with the joy of his
glorious and life-giving resurrection,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in Christian love,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader That he may provide for those who lack food,
work or shelter,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader That by his power war and famine
may cease through all the world,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,
the weak and the dying,
to comfort and strengthen them,

thinking of our majesty the Queen,
the Royal Family and all those who mourn
the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader That according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection
may be raised on the last day,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Reader Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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

President The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

President Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Christians have shared a sign of peace since the earliest days of the Church.
Although separated by distance we are all members of the Body of Christ and we
celebrate this by sharing Christ's peace.*

Hymn

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

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

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r

Be Thou My Vision
Eleanor Hull (1935)
trans. Mary Byrne

Performed by the Choir of Finchampstead, St James

Preparation of the Table

President Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread,
may we recognise you as the fire that burns within us,
that we may bring light to your world.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord is here.
All **His Spirit is with us.**
President Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
President Let us give thanks to Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**
President It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because through him you have given us eternal life
and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death
into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever 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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup,
we make the memorial of Christ, your Son, our Lord.

All

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

President

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
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 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.

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.**

All **Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

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

The president receives the bread and wine on behalf of the community as we take 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. You do not need any special words or actions to participate in this, only to desire to meet God. If you find it helpful you may want to use the following prayer or simply to listen to the hymn and reflect on God's love for you.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself and keep me in your care. Amen.

Music During Communion

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
*Performed by Philip King and Margaret Parkin
of St Matthew's Church, Oxford*

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.
Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of the bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

President God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

President Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Closing Video

My Redeemer Lives

Performed by Worship Group of All Saints Marlow

Our thanks to all who contributed to today's service:

Revd Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham; The Revd Will Pearson-Gee, Rector of Buckingham Parish Church; ReSound Worship; the worship group at St Mary's, Chipping Norton; the clerks of Christ Church Cathedral Choir; Adam Edwards, St Mary's Greenham; Adrian Yardley, Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes; Revd Polly Falconer, BAME Development Enabler for the diocese and assistant curate in the Benefice of Tilehurst; Beverley Mitchell-Wright, Parish of Finchampstead and California; the choir of Finchampstead, St James; Philip King and Margaret Parkin, St Matthew's Church, Oxford; the worship group of All Saints, Marlow.

This service was produced by Revd Gemma Donnell, assistant curate, Finchampstead and California. The lead liturgist was the Revd Philippa White, precentor of Christ Church Cathedral 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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Throughout the year, Mothers' Union maintains a Wave of Prayer which flows around the world.

Watch a special service as the wave reaches the Diocese of Oxford, alongside the dioceses of Southwark, Victoria Nyanza (Tanzania), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Ahoada and Warri (Nigeria), and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea).

20-22nd April

muoxford.org.uk

COME AND EAT

**Take time to contemplate the profound,
wonderful meal of Holy Communion.**

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available now. Listen online or search
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