

Church at Home

Third Sunday of Lent



Before the Service

The heart of worship

Welcome to Church at Home for the third Sunday in Lent. We are thrilled to have as our president the Revd Janet Binns, rector of St Nicholas', Hedsor, and St Mark's, Bourne End, with the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, the Bishop of Buckingham, giving our reflection. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to make this service possible, and in that vein, do keep an eye out for the Lord's Prayer in Messy Church actions later in the service.

Lent is the season in which we are called - and have even been compelled for a spell - to leave bricks and mortar behind and join that great movement of the God of hope, who for our sake came to be with us, to live among us. We journey with him to the unexpected culmination of his time with us, a deep darkness, which dawns to reveal our salvation.

Lent evolved historically as the principal season for preparing new Christians for baptism and those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for reconciliation. As the whole Christian community was invited to join both groups in the process of study and contemplation, we continue to invite you along with us on this journey of self-examination and discovery in this season; Come and See.

This Sunday, we turn our attention back to the heart of worship. We are beckoned away from the necessary structures, processes and traditions that protect the sacred within to gaze at the perfection, purity and peace that is Christ, the new temple and the reason for our worship.

In our gospel reading, we find Jesus 'cleansing' the old temple as we recall what happened when Christ entered his Father's house only to find commerce and religious economy eclipsing God's original intention for the building.

In fellowship now with one another, Christ, the new temple, receives each one of us. As the words of the old hymn go, *'just as I am without one plea... I come.'* So come on in.

Music before the service

'Kyrie' from Mass for Four Voices

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Recorded by Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford,

Conducted by Dr Stephen Darlington

From the CD 'English Choral Music 1514-1682,'

Licensed by Wyastone Estates

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.

Hymn

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.**

'Let all mortal flesh keep silence,'

Tune: Picardy, traditional French carol

Paraphraser: Gerald Moultrie (1864)

Sung by Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices

Directed by Simon Shaw, organist Dr Camilla Jarnot

Confession

President The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

cf Psalm 51.17

Kyrie

President We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President We confess to you our fear and failure
in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

President We confess to you our stubbornness
and lack of trust:

fill us with your Spirit.

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.**

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Reading

I Corinthians 1.18-25 (NRSV)

Read by Irim Sawar (St Michael and All Angels, Oxford)

Reader A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Hymn

**Here I am
Down on my knees again
Surrendering all
Find me here
Lord as You draw me near
Desperate for You**

I surrender

**Drench my soul
As mercy and grace unfold
I hunger and thirst
With arms stretched wide
I know You hear my cry
Speak to me now**

**I surrender
I want to know You more**

**Like a rushing wind
Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way in me**

**Like a mighty storm
Stir within my soul
Lord have Your way in me**

'I Surrender'

Words and music: Matt Crocker

© 2012 Hillsong Music

Recorded by Matt Dixey (Greyfriars Church, Reading)

Gospel Reading

John 2.13-22 (NRSV)

Read by Revd Sarah Nesbitt

(United Benefice of Shiplake with Dunsden and Harpsden)

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

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

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Reflection

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson
The Bishop of Buckingham

The Creed

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

Led by Moji Kolawole (Greyfriars Church, Reading)

The response to the prayers is:

Intercessor Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, hear our prayers.**

At the end we say:

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

The Peace

President We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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.*

**When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart**

**I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart**

**I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You,
It's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You,
It's all about You, Jesus**

**King of endless worth
No one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours
Every single breath**

'The Heart of Worship'

*Words and music Matt Redman & Martin Smith (1998), © 2003 Integrity Music
Recorded by musicians from St Mary's, Chipping Norton*

Preparation of the Table

President

God of our journey,
as we walk with you on your path of
obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to
your glory;
through Jesus Christ our 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 Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

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 Father of all,
we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.

All **This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

President The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.

All **This is our song:**
Hosanna in the highest.

President Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.

All **This is our song:**
Hosanna in the highest.

President Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.
This is our story.

All **This is our song:**
Hosanna in the highest.

President Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Messy Church Actions

*Led by Revd Cara Smart (St Paul, Wokingham with
St Nicholas, Emmbrook and Woosehill Church)*

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 Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

All **we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

**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,
in 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.

Hymn

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my chest."
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.**

'I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say'
Performed by Liv Chapman, St Ebbe's Church, Oxford, and Emu Music;
Horatius Bonar
Arrangement © 2018 Alanna Glover
CCLI Song Number: 7125864

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world,
the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

President We pray together.

All **Lord of our Lenten journey,
we pray that you would inspire and equip us
to respond to your call to Come and See.
That by your grace,
we may live out our faith in the world
by defending human life and caring for
the poor and vulnerable
in our local, national and global communities;
through Jesus Christ,
our Saviour.
Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

President Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
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.**

Hymn

**Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.**

**Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, oh, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.**

*'Jesu, Lover of My Soul', (Aberystwyth)
Music: Joseph Parry (1841-1903), Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Recorded by Francis and Sally Rumsey, Witney Benefice*

With huge thanks to all our contributors:

The Revd Janet Binns, rector of St Nicholas', Hedsor, and St Mark's, Bourne End;
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Liv Chapman, St Ebbe's Church, Oxford, and Emu Music;
Francis and Sally Rumsey, Witney Benefice.

Our lead liturgist this week was the Revd Canon Toby Wright, area dean for Witney and 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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COME AND SEE

You're invited

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