

Church at Home

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity



Before the Service

You are very welcome as we join together for Church at Home from across the Diocese of Oxford to worship God on this sixteenth Sunday after Trinity.

We are delighted that the President today is The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, and that our reflection is given by The Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Associate Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford. Many thanks are due to everyone who has contributed ideas, voices, prayers, music and videos to this week's Church at Home.

This Sunday we celebrate Harvest. This is an opportunity to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy and to consider how we can share these. Our thanksgiving is particularly focused around the food which sustains us and those who work to feed us, while remembering those locally and across the world who live with food insecurity.

As we celebrate God's abundant gifts, we are reminded that throughout Scripture, from the Torah to the New Testament, God calls His people to share what has been so graciously given, so that all people may have enough. And yet today, within this Diocese and across the world, millions of people cannot access enough food to meet their daily needs: indeed, many of us at the Lord's table today, locally and globally, are suffering because of hunger.

Together we pray for God's justice and mercy to be seen in how we grow, distribute, sell, buy, and use food. And we commit ourselves to seeking a more just food system – through taking action on climate change, so as to try to limit the intensification of weather extremes that harm crops, through working for policies that promote fair returns for producers, through advocating for programmes that ensure access to food, or perhaps through supporting or providing programmes that offer food to vulnerable children and adults, like those in our Diocese and our link Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman, about which we will hear more in our service.

We would like to thank everyone from across the Diocese who has made this service possible, including clergy and people from Reading, Windsor, Hazlemere, Great Missenden, and Oxford. We are also very grateful for contributions from Readifood Food Bank and our link Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman.

The Gathering

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

All **and also with you.**

Bishop Alan welcomes the congregation and introduces our Harvest themed service.

Hymn

We join together with the choir from St Peter and St Paul Great Missenden in singing

We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft, refreshing rain.

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
For all his love.*

He only is the maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey him,
By him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, his children,
He gives our daily bread.

We thank thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
For all thy love imparts,
And what thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain

Prayers of Penitence

President Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the
prophets.

All **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

President Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of
the world.

President God has blessed us,
but still God's children go hungry.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President God has blessed us,
but still the poor cry out for justice.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

President God has blessed us,
but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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 Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
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

Readings

2 Corinthians 9:6-end

*Read by Alison Peyton, Manager at Readifood and congregation member at
St John's and St Stephen's Church, Reading*

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65 5-13

Read by Revd Vusi Mabuza, Assistant Priest in the Windsor Team ministry.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

Worship Song

*We join in with a song by Sam Hargreaves
from the album Doxeology from Resound Worship*

God, the maker of the heavens,
and the planet that we share,
show us how to live, like Jesus,
lives of gratitude and care.
Make us mindful of the footprints
from the lives that we pursue.
Make us partners in your mission:
you are making all things new.

God, the gardener of Eden,
teach us how to tend this earth,
learning from the changing seasons,
times of fallow and new birth.
Lord have mercy when we're careless,
rich resources we misuse.
Use our hands to heal creation:
you are making all things new.

God of labour and vocation,
Lord of science, trade and art,
take our efforts and our passions
make them mirrors of your heart.
Every habitat and creature
loved and valued, God, by you.
May our lives reveal your Kingdom:
you are making all things new.

You are making all things new.
you are making all things new,
all things renewed.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:16-30

*Read by The Revd Val Plumb,
Area Dean for Rural Ministry & Development, Diocese of Oxford*

Reader Alleluia, alleluia.

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting. Gather the fruit for eternal life.

All **Alleluia.**

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Then Jesus told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.” He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Address

The Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Associate Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford & Associate Priest at The University Church, Oxford.

The Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

William helps to lead our intercessions and like many leaders, such as Moses and King George VI, speaks with a stammer. William was glad to participate in this service, together with his friends from Roots youth group, St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden.

Intercessor Lord of the harvest

All **In your mercy hear us.**

President *Merciful Father*

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

President Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Hymn

We join with the choir of Keble College Oxford in singing

Author of life divine,
Who hast a table spread,
Furnished with mystic wine,
And everlasting bread,
Preserve the life thyself hast given,
And feed and train us up for heaven.

Our needy souls sustain
With fresh supplies of love
Till all thy life we gain,
And all thy fullness prove,
And strengthen by thy perfect grace,
Behold without a veil thy face.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

President Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you bring forth bread from the earth.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you create the fruit of the vine.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

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 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.

Christ is the bread of life:

All **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.**

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

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,
for ever and 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 **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 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. The Priest receives the Bread & 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 also 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 one of the following prayers, or simply listen to the music and meditate upon God's love for you.

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 cannot 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.

As we make our spiritual communion we join in with the Taizé chant

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

Prayer after Communion

President Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give
us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good
things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We join with musicians from Holy Trinity, Hazlemere in singing Great are you Lord

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore (You restore)
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord x3

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs (only)
So we pour out our praise to You only
Great are you Lord

The Dismissal

President May God our creator,
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the

President Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Love, truth, beauty, and human compassion, strength and resilience are all around us. But so too are inequality, injustice, human pain and suffering.

God calls His people to share what has been so graciously given, so that all people may have enough. Yet the Trussell Trust forecasts a 61% increase in food parcels needed across its UK network in October to December

*Readifood is one of many foodbanks in the Diocese of Oxford supporting those who are in need. Visit **trusselltrust.org** and find out how you could support a foodbank in your area.*

Thanks to all those who made this service possible:

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Series 5:

Comfortable words

Bishop Steven's podcast

Series 5 of the popular podcast by Bishop Steven Croft takes its title from the opening verses of Isaiah 40-55. This series is intended to help the church find its voice again in the midst of the pandemic. To subscribe, search 'Bishop Steven Croft' wherever you get your podcasts. Alternatively, listen online at blogs.oxford.anglican.org



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