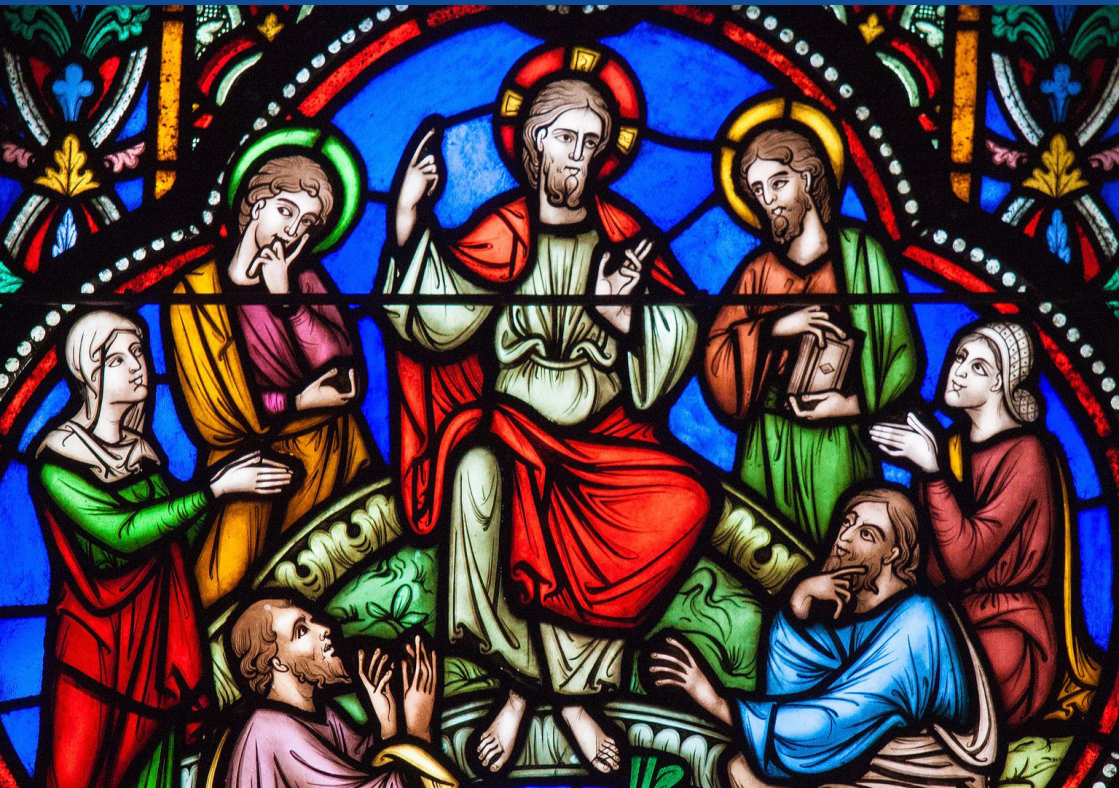


Church at Home

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity



Before the Service

Welcome as we worship God together from across the communities of the Diocese of Oxford during Church at Home on this eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.

Our President today is the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon of Oxford, and the address is given by the Revd Tina Molyneux, Diocesan Discipleship Enabler. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed in ideas, prayers and action to the service.

This week our focus is discipleship and what it means to follow Jesus Christ today. *Our Diocesan vision is to enable the whole people of God to feel confident and equipped to become more Christ-like for the sake of God's world.* It's about renewing and re-igniting the faith of every person to find and follow God in everyday life.

This year we have faced unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. Lockdown has been difficult and has also brought new insights, opportunities and challenges in the way in which we support, nurture and form one another to be more Christ-like. Gathering together in different ways, in our church community is vital and this can be strengthened by having someone alongside us (online or in person), to listen and encourage us on our own journey. Each of us have a unique calling and a Personal Discipleship Plan can help us discover and explore this.

The underpinning principle is that everybody is given the opportunity to have a positive and encouraging conversation about their faith, to support them in responding to their calling. You will be encouraged to reflect upon how you are nourishing your faith, where you are noticing God in your life and how you can share your gifts in your everyday life. This is about supporting and equipping you to respond to your unique calling as together we become a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world. Find out more about everyday faith, and Personal Discipleship Plans at **oxford.anglican.org/personal-discipleship-plan**

Thank you to everyone from across the Diocese who has made this service possible, including clergy and people from Oxford, Prestwood and Great Hampden, Reading and Lambourn. We are also grateful for a contribution from 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.**

The Archdeacon of Oxford welcomes the congregation and introduces our service with its theme of discipleship.

Hymn

We join together with the choir of Keble College, Oxford in singing:

Breathe on me, Breath of God
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine;
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

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 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.**

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 and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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

Philippians 4:1-9

*Read by Daphne van der Ross, Manager of Hope for the Living, Roodepan,
Kimberley, South Africa*

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Psalm 23

Sung by Felix Leach, University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth 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 comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:1-14

Read by Revd Kevin Lovell, Curate, Prestwood and Great Hampden

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

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers,

and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

The Address

*The Revd Tina Molyneux, Discipleship Enabler, Diocese of Oxford
see oxford.anglican.org/personal-discipleship-plan*

The Apostles' Creed

(our apologies for the background noise in the cathedral at this moment)

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 the 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.

*The prayers are led by Alison, Beth and Mair Williams from Lambourn
Valley Benefice.*

President 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.

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

Worship Song

We join in with a song by Marcus Pagnam from the album Doxecology

Why are you downcast, O my soul,
so full of fear where once was hope?
Remember God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

Beneath the shadow of each storm,
in all the sorrow and despair,
Remember God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

Be still, my soul,
trust in your God,
his perfect ways,
his endless love.
Be still and know
he reigns above the earth.
Be still, my soul,
be still, my soul.

In all your striving, find his peace,
become a shining light of grace
and show that God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

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 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,

For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever 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.
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 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.**

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.

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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.

Hymn

We join with Gloucester Cathedral Choir to sing:

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength, that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be ;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not forever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our Guide;
through endeavor, failure, danger,
Savior, be thou at our side.

Prayer after Communion

President Faithful God,
in baptism you have adopted us as your children,
made us members of the body of Christ
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:
we thank you that in this Eucharist
you renew your promises within us,
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,
and send us out as disciples of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Worship Song

We join with Greyfriars Worship in Reading to sing Good Grace:

People come together
Strangers, neighbours
Our blood is one
Children of generations
Of every nation
Of kingdom come

So don't let your heart be troubled
Hold your head up high
Don't fear no evil
Fix your eyes on this one truth
God is madly in love with you
So take courage
Hold on, be strong
Remember where our help comes from

Jesus, our redemption
Our salvation is in His blood
Jesus, light of heaven
Friend forever, His kingdom come

So don't let your heart be troubled
Hold your head up high
Don't fear no evil
Fix your eyes on this one truth
God is madly in love with you
So take courage
Hold on, be strong
Remember where our help comes from

Swing wide
All you heavens
Let the praise go up
As the walls come down

All creation
Everything with breath
Repeat the sound
All His children
Clean hands, pure hearts
Good grace, good God
His name is Jesus
Swing wide
All you heavens
Let the praise go up
As the walls come down
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Let the praise go up
As the walls come down
All creation
Everything with breath
Repeat the sound
All His children
Clean hands, pure hearts

Good grace, good God
His name is Jesus

Jesus, our redemption
Our salvation is in His blood
Jesus, light of heaven
Friend forever, His kingdom come

The Dismissal

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.**

The Prime Minister has asked us all to observe the 'Rule of Six'. There are lessons and challenges that Christians can draw from this number to help us live well in these times. In a short film following the service, Bishop Steven introduces six ideas to help us explore all that we are called to be and to do as Christians during this pandemic.

Our thanks to all those who made this service possible:

The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon of Oxford; The Revd Tina Molyneux, Diocesan Discipleship Enabler; The Church of England; Choir of Keble College, Oxford (courtesy of Priory Records); Daphne van der Ross, Manager of Hope For the Living, Roodepan, Kimberley, South Africa; Felix Leach, University Church of St Mary the Virgin Oxford; Revd Kevin Lovell, Curate, Prestwood and Great Hampden; Alison, Beth and Mair Williams, Lambourn Valley Benefice; Gloucester Cathedral Choir; The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford and the Diocese of Oxford; Resound Worship and Marcus Pagnam (courtesy of Jubilate Hymns Ltd); Pete Willmot and Greyfriars Worship, Reading.

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