

Church at Home

The Fourth Sunday After Trinity

A special service in honour of the NHS



Before the Service

The National Health Service came into being on 5 July 1948. During post-war reconstruction, improving the healthcare of the nation was seen as crucial to the nation's recovery. Beveridge, the architect of the NHS, identified 'five giants' that had to be slain: want, disease, squalor, ignorance and idleness. The cataclysm of war provided the stimulus for radical reform. It was a momentous achievement and, in spite of early professional resistance to some of the proposals, it was born of a national consensus: everybody wanted the new service to work.

The NHS was based on principles unlike anything that had gone before. It was financed almost entirely from central taxation. That the rich paid more than the poor for comparable benefits was regarded as a crucial part of the scheme. Everyone was eligible for care, even people temporarily resident or visiting the country. People could be referred to any hospital, local or more distant. Care was free at the point of use, although prescription and dental charges were subsequently introduced.

During the current pandemic, there has been immense national and local support for the NHS and its front line workers. The emergence of the Thursday 'Clap for Carers' was a significant experience in the lockdown. Thanksgiving binds communities together, turning 'I' into 'we'. The contribution of carers and key workers who have given of themselves sacrificially needs to be honoured. Sharing stories of people and events during the crisis is likely to form the kernel of any community celebration. Unsung heroes need to be applauded.

+ Robert Exon, Bishop of Exeter and Chair of the Church of England Liturgical Commission.

How to watch Church at Home

The direct link to this service is published at oxford.anglican.org/livestream about an hour before the service starts. You can also find it on our YouTube, Vimeo and Facebook pages at 10am.

The Gathering

Video: 'How do you express your love of God?'

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 Steven welcomes the congregation and introduces the theme of gratitude for the founding of the NHS and for all health workers.

Hymn

We join with the worship team from Greyfriars Church, Reading in singing 'The Way':

Through every battle
Through every heartbreak
Through every circumstance
I believe that you are my fortress
You are my portion
You are my hiding place
Oh I believe you are

The Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe you are
The Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe

Through every blessing
Through every promise
Through every breath I take
I believe that you are provider
You are protector
You are the one I love
I believe you are

The Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe you are
The Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe you are
We believe you are

It's a new horizon
And I'm set on you
And you meet me here today
With mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long
When I'm here with you

It's a new horizon
And I'm set on you
And you meet me here today
With mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long
When I believe you are

The Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe you are
The Way, the Truth, the Life

It's a new horizon
And I am set on You
And you meet me here today
With mercies that are new

All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long
When I believe you are
The Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe you are
The Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe you are

We believe you are
We believe you are
The Way, the Truth, the Life
No one comes to the Father except through you.
You are the Way.

Prayers of Penitence

Bishop Steven introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

A time of silent reflection is kept.

President Brothers and sisters in Christ,
as we prepare to celebrate our faith in
word and sacrament,
let us call to mind our sins.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought 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 Lord have mercy.
All **Lord have mercy.**

President Christ have mercy.
All **Christ have mercy.**

President Lord have mercy.
All **Lord have mercy.**

President Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness
and keep us in life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Collect

President God of compassion,
your anointed Son brought healing to those in weakness and
distress:
strengthen by your life-giving Spirit
all whom you call to serve in the medical profession,
that by their ministries your people may be made whole
in body, mind and spirit;
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**

From At all times and in all places by *Revd Dr Canon Simon Jones (2014)*

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Zechariah 9.9–12

*Read by Jos Hudson, midwife at the Royal Berkshire Hospital,
member of Greyfriars Church, Reading.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Psalm 145.8–15

*Read by John Hudson,
an ordinand on placement at Greyfriars, Reading.*

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,

to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

Hymn

*We join Revd Ben Phillips, Vicar of St Thomas', Goring, and Sarah Meyrick,
Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, as we sing:*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, 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 days be bright.'

I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
'til trav'ling days are done.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11.16–19, 25–30

Read by Revd Jan Radford, Hospital Chaplain at the John Radcliffe, Oxford

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

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

Jesus said, 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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

The Address

Revd David Walker, Vicar of Greyfriars, Reading

Organ Interlude

The Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again,
He ascended into heaven,
Is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come to judge the living and 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

*Led by Ralph Roberston, Consultant Paediatrician
and Amanda Robertson, Senior Physiotherapist,
members of St Andrew's, Headington*

Reader Let us pray to God our Father, whose Son came that we may have life.

We give you thanks for the life and work
of all those whose vision founded our National Health Service,
and for those who serve others in care and compassion.
We pray that their work and ministry to the sick
may enrich and support the welfare of all.
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader We give thanks for all who provide leadership in healthcare,
for those who exercise stewardship and allocate resources
and pray that, in challenging times,
support and compassion may be shown to those most in need.
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader We pray for all who promote health and wellbeing in policy and
practice;
for all who care for the sick, in hospital, in hospices, in care
homes, and at home;
for doctors, nurses and those who provide rehabilitation,
for care assistants and ancillary staff.
We seek guidance and strength for all chaplains,
and for all engaged in teaching and medical research.
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
for those who are terminally ill, elderly or frail;
for all who live with disability or in constant pain,
and for the many who strive to bring comfort and healing to
them.
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader Remember in your kingdom, O Lord,
all those who have faithfully served you here on earth and are
now at rest;
grant us, with them, and with all the faithful departed, the joy of
your salvation.
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Jesus says: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'

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

Preparation of the Table

Taking of Bread and Wine

Bishop Steven prepares the altar-table.

Hymn

We join with the Choir of Keble College, Oxford as we sing:

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.

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 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.

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,
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.

President
All

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

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

With the National Parliamentary Breakfast Prayer Group

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 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.**

Agnus Dei

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.**

Giving of Communion

We are invited to make spiritual communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church ever thought necessary is a true desire to receive Christ, a lively faith in Christ, and a genuine love of Christ and his people.

As we make our spiritual communion, we listen to Thomas Tallis' setting of words from chapter 14 of St John's Gospel, sung by the Choir of Brasenose College, Oxford.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another
Comforter,
that he may abide with you for ever; e'en the Spirit of truth.

Prayer after Communion

President Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Hymn

*We join Revd Rickey Simpson-Gray, Vicar of the Parish of the Claydons, and
Jon and Isaac Hobbs as we sing:*

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge —
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,
You will find your solace there.

The Dismissal

President The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

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,
 Father, Son and 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**

We end the service with a short video of a candle service produced by the Chaplains of the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Our special thanks go to all those who made this service possible: The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford; Revd David Walker, Vicar of Greyfriars, Reading, and the Greyfriars Worship team: Ben Atkins, Bex Dodson, Nathan Hill, Harvey Jessop, Andy Miller, Ellie Robinson and Pete Willmot; Jos and John Hudson; Ralph Roberston, Consultant Paediatrician and Amanda Robertson, Senior Physiotherapist, members of St Andrew's, Headington; Revd Jan Radford, Chaplain at the JR Hospital, and the hospital Chaplaincy team; Revd Dr Canon Simon Jones, Merton College, Oxford; Revd Rickey Simpson-Gray and Jon and Isaac Hobbs, from the parish of the Claydon's; Revd Ben Phillips, Vicar of St Thomas' Church, Goring and Sarah Meyrick, Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral; the Choir of Brasenose College; the Choir of Keble College; and the National Parliamentary Breakfast Prayer Group.

This service was produced by lead liturgist, Revd Darren McFarland; Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Associate Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford; and Steven Buckley, Director of Communications; with the help of Ruth Hamilton-Jones, Internal Communications Officer and Mark Robinson of Digital Creative.

'Breathe on me, breath of God' performed by the choir of Keble College, Oxford. Recording taken from the Complete New English Hymnal and used with the kind permission of Priority Records. Cover and back page images: Shutterstock Images used in the broadcast are licensed under creative commons from Unsplash or the contributors own.

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Everything will live where the river goes.

'Our calling now is to rebuild and reset the prayer and worship of God's Church in prayer and faith and through much careful labour.' Listen to the latest episode of *Reflections for a Church in Lockdown*.

blogs.oxford.anglican.org