

The Eucharist on The Sixth Sunday of Easter 17th May 2020

THE GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

O sing joyfully

Sung by Blackburn Cathedral Choir, directed by Richard Tanner

O sing joyfully unto God our strength :
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song, bring hither the tabret :
the merry harp with the lute.

Blow up the trumpet in the new-moon :
even in the time appointed,
and upon our solemn feast-day.
For this was made a statute for Israel :
and a law of the God of Jacob.

*Music by: Adrian Batten
Words: Psalm 81 vv.1-4*

THE GREETING

The Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Liverpool

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

My name is Crispin Pailing and I am Rector of Liverpool. We're out for our daily exercise at the moment, along the banks of the River Mersey. The river has always been the life blood of the city. In a moment you'll meet my wife Rowena: this is one of our favourite local walks. Both of us have ministries which are focused on living out our Christian faith through daily life in the world. Place is important to the Church of England. The communities which each of us serves are a little over thirty miles apart in the northwest, and during this Eucharist a number of people from each of those communities will be speaking, whilst (of course) carefully observing current guidelines for keeping safe.

The first part of our service will take place as we walk, and then we'll carry on with the Eucharistic Prayer when we get back to our house. Please do join in with the congregational parts. On the screen they will be said by our sons Ambrose and Jerome who, like many clergy children at the moment, are fulfilling this important function in on-line worship across the country.

The Revd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing, Vice Dean and Canon Missioner, Blackburn Cathedral

I'm Rowena Pailing, and as I'm recording this at work, I'm in the Cathedral Close at Blackburn, where I'm Vice Dean and Canon Missioner. Before the pandemic we divided our time as a family between our two locations, so I am very much looking forward to our normal pattern resuming. You can see the Cathedral behind me with its distinctive lantern tower. The Diocese of Blackburn roughly maps onto the county of Lancashire, a place of varied landscapes and diverse communities. In this town, where people of different backgrounds and faith traditions live alongside each other, there is a strong commitment to work together for a cohesive society, and to celebrate both our distinctiveness and what we share in common.

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the word 'Advocate', one who speaks on behalf of others, to describe the Holy Spirit. We have therefore taken the idea of advocacy as a theme. Not just in our contexts, but in every community, there are people who find themselves denied a voice, and so the Christian life involves being advocates both for the people of God, and for God himself, wherever we are called to be.

As we continue this service with our confession, we'll hear from Sarah, Mark and Freyja, who have rooted their faith in the places where they live and work, and whose vocations all enable the voiceless to be heard.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Sarah

I'm a GP on Merseyside, and my work includes managing and caring for those who are ill, but I think we could do more to offer hope to those who are suffering.

In a dark and disfigured world, we have not held out the light of life:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Mark

My work at Blackburn Cathedral includes providing food parcels for people who are homeless, but I think we could do more as Christians to make sure everybody has enough to eat.

In a hungry and despairing world, we have failed to share our bread:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Freyja

I'm a chorister at Blackburn Cathedral who sings in our worship, but I think we could all do more to care for God's creation.

In a cold and loveless world, we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Crispin

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.**

HYMN**Glory in the highest**

Recorded remotely by St Martin's Voices in their homes this week

Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people through the earth be given!
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,
singing Hallelujah to our heavenly king.

Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son!
With the Holy Spirit you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.

Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy One,
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!

*Words: Christopher Idle based on the Gloria
Tune: Evelyns*

THE COLLECT

Crispin

Let us pray.

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God, the Father.

All **Amen.**

Our first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles and read by Eva, a Churchwarden at Liverpool Parish Church.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Read by Eva, Liverpool Parish Church Churchwarden

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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

GOSPEL*Read by Rowena*

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

cf Revelation 1.17,18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SERMON*Rowena*

As we come to affirm our faith in a creed, we hear first from Dean Sullivan, who has spoken on behalf of others, as an actor and broadcaster, but who also speaks loud and clear about his own faith.

*Interview with Dean Sullivan, 'Jimmy Corkhill' from Brookside.***THE CREED***Crispin and Dean Sullivan.*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 who gives life to the people of God
 and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
 We believe and trust in one God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Crispin

Our prayers of intercessions will be led by Jeremy, a Cathedral Warden in Blackburn, April, an art historian from Liverpool, and Anthony, a palliative care nurse in Blackburn.

Jeremy

As we continue to celebrate this Easter season, we give thanks for the joy of the resurrection and the promise of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate. We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the courage always to follow Christ and proclaim his good news.

**All Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.**

April

We pray for our world, and for all those who have been denied a voice. For any who are oppressed or silenced because of their race, gender, orientation, economic status or disability, that they might be heard, and flourish as children of God.

**All Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.**

Anthony

Our prayers are also for the local communities we each serve and represent. We give thanks for the city of Liverpool and the county of Lancashire, for their vibrancy, beauty and diversity. And we pray for all those across the country who are working to support others during the pandemic, that they might be kept safe.

**All Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.**

Jeremy

We pray for any who are struggling at this time: for those in pain or distress, for those living with poverty or hunger, for any who are abused or afraid. We pray for relief where there is suffering, and for peace where there is violence.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

April

We bring before God those who mourn and give thanks for all those have gone before us, praying for those who have died. We offer our prayers for the victims of coronavirus and commend them to your mercy. May we, like them, one day have a share in Christ's eternal glory.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

Anthony

Finally, we offer to God our own personal prayers, in a brief moment of silence. We bring before him our concerns, the people and situations where we know there is a need, and also everything for which we are thankful.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

Crispin

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**THE PEACE***Crispin*

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.

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

HYMN

Here in this place, new light is streaming

Sung by Gabriella Noble, accompanied by Gavin Roberts, recorded remotely in their homes this week.

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
 now is the darkness vanished away.
 See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
 gather us in - the blind and the lame.
 Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
 we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
 here we will take the bread of new birth.
 Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
 call us anew to be salt for the earth.
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
 give us to eat the bread that is you.
 Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
 lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
 not in some heaven, light years away,
 but here in this place, the new light is shining;
 now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
 Gather us in - and hold us forever,
 gather us in - and make us your own.
 Gather us in - all peoples together,
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*Words: Marty Haugen
 Tune: Gather us in*

Let us pray.

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

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,
 almighty and eternal Father,
 and in these days of Easter
 to celebrate with joyful hearts
 the memory of your wonderful works.
 For by the mystery of his passion
 Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
 has conquered the powers of death and hell
 and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
 He has placed them once more in paradise
 and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
 And so, in the joy of this Passover,
 earth and heaven resound with gladness,
 while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
 sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
 and according to your holy will,
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
 you have set us free.
 You are the Saviour of the world.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
 his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
 rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
 and looking for his coming in glory,
 we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
 we bring before you this bread and this cup
 and we thank you for counting us worthy
 to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
 and gather into one in your kingdom
 all who share this one bread and one cup,
 so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
 St Nicholas and all the saints,
 may praise and glorify you for ever,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;
 by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
 for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

I am going to use the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer, but I invite you to say it in whatever form feels most comfortable for you.

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.**

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.**

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

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Said whilst communion is received

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Crispin

Let us pray.

**God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.**

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

Send us out
 in the power of your Spirit
 to live and work
 to your praise and glory.
 Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing and Dismissal

All The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

God the Father,
 by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
 strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN

Come down, O love divine

Recorded remotely by St Martin's Voices in their homes this week

Come down, O Love divine,
 seek thou this soul of mine,
 and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
 O comforter, draw near,
 within my heart appear,
 and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
 till earthly passions turn
 to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
 And let thy glorious light
 shine ever on my sight,
 and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
 mine outward vesture be,
 and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
 true lowliness of heart,
 which takes the humbler part,
 and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
 with which the soul will long,
 shall far outpass the power of human telling;
 For none can guess its grace,
 till he become the place
 wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Words: Discendi, amor santo Bianco da Siena (died 1434)

Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

Music: Down Ampney

Rowena

We are delighted that you've been able to join us for this Eucharist from the northwest of England, and we are very grateful to all the 'advocates' who have shared in it. With the current guidelines it may seem strange now to be sent out, when we can't really go anywhere, but this sending is more about time than place, moving from an act of worship into the daily experience of living and speaking and listening in faith.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nun Danket Alle Gott – Siegfried Karg-Elert

Played by Hugh Morris on the organ of Hexham Abbey

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