

Worship at Home Sixth Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME

Katy Hirst, Ridley Hall Ordinand

Hello and welcome to this morning's service of worship.

My name is Katy and I am a first year Ordinand at Ridley Hall, where I have spent lockdown living as one household with other resident students. Like churches around the country, our chapel has been closed, so we have been praying together in our common room and on the lawn, as well as over the internet with our fellow students living offsite.

This morning's service has been put together and filmed by students from three different theological training institutions; St Hild, Eastern Region Ministry Course and Ridley Hall.

Many people will have known the pain and loss of imperfect endings and goodbyes over the last few months. Students moving on from their schools and colleges, people leaving workplaces, and at our training institutions we have all felt the sadness of saying goodbye and sending out our fellow students into ministry without being physically together.

But, the Kingdom of God continues to come in this time and so today we will be reflecting on what it means to be sent out and to be fruitful in this changing world. Later on, we will be hearing inspiring testimonies from students at St Hild and ERMC about what this looks like for them, as they go out and serve God and the Church as both lay and ordained ministers.

HYMN

The Kingdom of God is justice and joy

Recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the Good News, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry glory to God all in all.

Bryn Rees (1911-1983)
© Alexander Scott

GREETING

Katy Hirst, with Sam Sieber, Josh Richards and Amy Bland

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us take a moment to recognize his presence with us.

Silence is kept

As God's people we have gathered:

All let us worship him together.

CONFESSION

Led by Katy Hirst

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and in faith.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Christ, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

(Lord, have mercy)
(Christ, have mercy)
(Lord, have mercy)

ABSOLUTION

Rev Charles Read, ERM C

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jane Foster-Smith, St Hild
Romans 8: 12-25

A reading from the Epistle to the Romans, chapter eight, beginning to read at verse twelve.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

TESTIMONY

June Cockburn, St Hild

This summer I completed the academic part of my training at St Hild College in Mirfield as an Ordinand. Our leaver's service though moving, genuine and really heartfelt, was painful in that we weren't able to touch each other, we weren't able to hug. There was no ceremonial ordination like there had been the two previous years. In some ways it was such an anti-climax.

I was feeling low and was scrolling through Facebook and I came across a post that an Ordinand friend of mine had made about Esther and how Esther had been called 'for such a time as this.' I thought to myself, surely God knew the timetable of my ordination way back when; He knew the strange ending I and many like me would experience. And this thought really encouraged me.

This year my husband and I celebrated 26 years of marriage. When we got married, my husband and I, we couldn't afford the lavish wedding that we really wanted because we were students. And at the time I did mourn it a bit. Well looking back it didn't detract one bit from the love I had for my then fiancé and now, 26 years later the lack of opulence at the time has had absolutely no bearing on the quality of our marriage and our service to God.

So, what does it mean to be fruitful in this changing world? To me, I've come to understand that as long as your relationships with God and those around you are genuine, the grandeur of the transition from one liminal space to another is not actually that important.

At this hour and at this time, at such a time as this, whatever the context, my focus is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to help others around me grow in the fruits of the spirit in whatever way I am able to. The Kingdom of God continues to come, whatever the circumstances. As a minister of his Church and of the Good News of Christ I feel the constraints of our pandemic world forces to really think about what it means to be a 'church without walls' as our college principal, Mark Powley put it. We're being called to emphasise on meeting people where they are as opposed to the focus being on getting them to come where we are: physically, spiritually and metaphorically.

Going forward I think my role will be what the retail industry coined a couple of decades ago a 'brick and click' one, that is being able to switch and adapt from virtual, to reality in a breath. Being church without walls, doesn't refer only to the physical walls of a building; I think our role as ministers of the Gospel will continue to adapt and change so that it's got relevance to the people we're hoping to serve. And I'm not quite sure what that will look like entirely, but what I do know is that a year ago, nobody thought it would look the way it does today. And so, who can say what creativity and innovation future changes might bring?

During this next hymn, I'd like to invite you to reflect on how you are being sent out into the Kingdom.

HYMN

O God you search me and you know me

Sung by St Martin's Voices

O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar.
And with love everlasting you besiege me:
in ev'ry moment of life and death, you are.

For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Bernadette Farrell (b.1957) from Psalm 139
© 1992 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications,
5536 NE Hassalo Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved.

GOSPEL READING

Robert Morley, final year Ordinand with ERM

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

The Gospel is taken from the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everyone was asleep, the enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'. He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, and gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SERMON

Dora Jejey, Ridley Hall

ANTHEM

Lead me, O Lord – Thomas Hewitt Jones

Recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together

*Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies, because of mine enemies;
Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies, because of mine enemies;
Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies, because of mine enemies;
Lead me, O Lord, Lead me, O Lord, Lead me, O Lord, Lead me, O Lord.*

*Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness, in thy righteousness, make thy way straight before my face,
before my face,*

Lead me, O Lord, Lead me, O Lord.

In thy righteousness because of mine enemies;

Lead me, O Lord. Lead me, O Lord.

Psalm 5.8 (King James Version)

THE CREED

Led by Katy Hirst

We now affirm our faith together, with the words of 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

TESTIMONY

Charlie Houlder-Moat, final year Reader student with ERMIC / Diocese of Norwich

My vocation has been shaped by my love of being outdoors and active. I've a varied background in sports science, outdoor instructing and being a forest ranger, to now growing into my calling. I have just completed my two year reader training with ERMIC and I learnt in the spirituality module that finding God in nature isn't anything new. With my outdoor education background I have grown Wild Church. This takes church outside the walls. While church is about exploration through both books of God, scripture, and creation. The idea is to connect with the whole person and offer something holistic, connecting with mind, body and soul. This enables people to be in touch with the ground beneath their feet, the world about them, the God around and within them, and their own true selves.

Wild Church is similar to the Fresh Expression movement of Forest Church and encourages participation with creation. The human and the non-human world coming together. My passion is to engage with people for whom the traditional model of church is not an accessible option for whatever reason. With my specific vocation to reader ministry, I am called to be a witness to the unchanging love of God, in a changing world. Some people call this a Bridge Ministry. I see it as more of a doorway or gateway beyond the walls of a church, and the vehicle I'm called to use is the created world. The premise is simple; I'm called to teach people and help them learn about the natural world which will hopefully cultivate awe and wonder and will inspire people to look after the planet we all call home. We have a responsibility now.

The reading from Romans eight from today speaks of all creation waiting to be liberated into the fullness in God that we hope for. We are waiting and hoping for God's earth to be renewed, that is for all creation. However, we are not to sit idly by, and let the damage of the planet continue. Jesus knew the value, he spent time by lakes, on lakes, up mountain sides to be with Father God. He used nature as a teaching aid as we can see from today's other reading. I believe we are all called to be stewards of the planet and look after our common home and we can certainly catch glimpses of the Kingdom of God here in our midst. I feel we are all called to look out beyond ourselves to the world and people around us on the patch of earth God has placed us. And we aren't doing this on our own, this is the Holy Spirit's work which roots us all together, we are all connected. To quote John Muir, when one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS (Come, Holy Spirit.)

Recorded remotely by the Gabriella Noble and Gavin Roberts in their homes, and edited together

Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
veni Sancte Spiritus.

*Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
Sancte Spiritus.*

*Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
veni Sancte Spiritus.*

*Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
Sancte Spiritus.*

Music: Peter Nardone (b.1965)

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Led by Jenna Dearden, second year Ordinand with ERM

Let us pray for the world.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our world and ask for your restoration.

May your Kingdom come and bring an end to all that divides us. Where there is inequality and prejudice, injustice and poverty or violence, pour in the riches of your grace, the fullness of your mercy and the power of your love. Make us the people you want us to be and by the power of your Holy Spirit enable us to be a force of love as we seek reconciliation.

Lord Jesus, as we continue to live within a worldwide pandemic send your healing power across our lands and upon all people. Bring peace and comfort to those who are suffering or are in need. Guide our world leaders in the way of wisdom and truth, compassion and love.

Thank you, Lord, that we can put our hope in you. Sustain us now to live in your world that we might be the beating heart of your Kingdom. In an ever-changing world, send us out to live in love and truth in the name of Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS (Come, Holy Spirit.)

Recorded remotely by the Gabriella Noble and Gavin Roberts in their homes, and edited together

*Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
veni Sancte Spiritus.*

*Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
Sancte Spiritus.*

Music: Peter Nardone (b.1965)

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Led by Che Seabourne, St Hild College

Heavenly Father, Across our nation, and across the world, many of our church buildings remain shut, and in many others we can't gather to worship in the way we long to. We're scattered, and we lament that. We lament all we've seen that still divides us.

But we are also proclaiming that your Church has not been closed. It is open, and lives in each of us by your Holy Spirit. We are your Church; enables us to be your hope on earth.

Father, you call all of us to flourish for your mission, and so we pray for all of us, particularly those being sent out from theological training colleges, that you would empower us for your ministry in these changing times.

Father God, by your Holy Spirit, and in the name of Christ Jesus, help the Church to build your Kingdom, not with walls, but beyond them.

All Amen.

VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS (Come, Holy Spirit.)

Recorded remotely by the Gabriella Noble and Gavin Roberts in their homes, and edited together

*Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
veni Sancte Spiritus.*

*Veni, veni,
veni, veni,
Sancte Spiritus.*

Music: Peter Nardone (b.1965)

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES

Funmilayo Vaughan, Ridley Hall

Let us pray for ourselves.

Heavenly Father, we bring our lives before you, we pray that we be anchored to hope, in hope, may we all grow in trust, grow in love with you and the work you have called us to do.

Father let your kingdom come.

Heavenly Father, you are the all knowing, all powerful God, in our weakness, strengthen us and empower us as we prepare to go out and for those who have been sent. Let faith rise up in us that we through you are able to do the impossible and see the world through your eyes.

Father let your kingdom come.

Heavenly Father, may we, called by you remain unshakeable, immovable, steadfast and fruitful in our journey of faith, that we depend completely on you knowing and trusting that you who called us is faithful and trusting that you work all things together for our good.

Father let your kingdom come.

Standing at the foot of the cross, each in our preferred language, as our Saviour has 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.

CONCLUSION

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

BLESSING

Revd Charles Read

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you all today and
always.

All Amen.

FINAL HYMN

You shall go out with joy

Recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.

Stuart Dauermann (b.1944)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With thanks to Katy Hirst, Revd Charles Read, Dora Jeje, Jane Foster-Smith, June Cockburn, Robert Morley, Charlie Houlder-Moat, Funmilayo Vaughan, Sam Sieber, Che Seabourne, Jenna Dearden, Josh Richards, Amy Bland.

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Gill Behenna.

Music by the choral scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Andrew Earis.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Pastoral Services and Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2005 and 2006.

Texts of copyright hymns and songs are reproduced under the terms of CCL licence 1363240 and MRL licence 1363257, Calamus Licence number 10445, or One License 733232-A. Thine be the glory courtesy of the BBC © 2020 BBC.

New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from The New Revised Standard Version Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.