

Church at Home

Passion Sunday



On this fifth Sunday of Lent, we turn with Jesus towards Jerusalem and the end of his earthly life: suffering, the cross, and death. But this is only part of the story. We face with Jesus suffering and death, but we face them with the promise that death is not the end. A year after the first national lockdown, as we are reminded of the pain, loss and grief that the last year has brought, we are also reminded that Jesus promises new life, new hope, and a love that continues.

The joint foundation of Christ Church, as a college of the University of Oxford and as the cathedral church of the Diocese of Oxford, is unique. Within this context, the Christ Church community includes undergraduates, postgraduates and academics; clergy; staff and volunteers in numerous departments; two schools; and the musicians of four choirs. In this service, we will hear from a wide cross-section of the members of our community who make our life here so rich.

The Diocese of Oxford is the Church of England in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. We are more than 1,000 churches, chaplaincies and schools called to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world.

One year ago today, the first diocesan Church at Home service was broadcast live from the Cathedral. Since then, thousands of people have tuned in to services from across the diocese each week. It is fitting that Church at Home returns to Christ Church today and, wherever you are joining us from, may God bless you as we worship him together.

oxford.anglican.org/video-on-demand

Introit
Ex ore innocentium

recorded remotely by Frideswide Voices of Christ Church

It is a thing most wonderful,
Almost too wonderful to be,
That God's own Son should come from heaven,
And die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:
He chose a poor and humble lot,
And wept, and toiled and mourned and died,
For love of those who loved him not.

I sometimes think about the Cross,
And shut my eyes, and try to see
The cruel nails and crown of thorns,
And Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see him die,
I should but see a little part
Of that great love, which, like a fire,
Is always burning in his heart.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
And I will love thee more and more,
Until I see thee as thou art.

Text: William Walsham How (1823–1897)

Music: John Ireland (1879–1962)

The Sub Dean welcomes us and introduces the service.

The president says

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

All God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong
that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reflection
Everyday Faith

by Aaron James,
an undergraduate at Christ Church

Reading

Jeremiah 31.31–34

read by the Head Boy of Christ Church Cathedral School

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51: 1–3, 7–13

read by Dr Mishtooni Bose

a tutor and member of the academic community at Christ Church

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me
and shall make me understand wisdom
in the depths of my heart.

- 8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Turn your face from my sins
and blot out all my misdeeds.
- 11 Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.
- 13 Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit.

A hymn to God the Father

recorded by the Choristers of Christ Church Cathedral

Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive those sins through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;
For I have more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sins their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallow'd in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by Thyself that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as He shines now and heretofore:
And having done that, Thou hast done;
I fear no more.

Text: John Donne (1572–1631)

Music: Pelham Humfrey (1647–1674)

Gospel

John 12.20–33

read by Canon Carol Harrison

Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

*given by the Precentor
the Revd Philippa White*

President Let us declare our faith in God.

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.**

**Reflection
Everyday Faith**

by pupils from

St Frideswide Church of England Primary School

Prayers

*led by Darian Murray-Griffiths,
an undergraduate at Christ Church*

Pie Jesu

*recorded by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral
in November 2020*

Pie Jesu, Domine,
dona eis requiem,
sempiternam requiem.

*Merciful Jesus, Lord,
grant them rest,
everlasting rest.*

*Text: from the thirteenth century Latin hymn Dies irae
Music: Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924), from the Requiem Mass*

The president says:

We offer to Almighty God all those whom we have loved and lost, especially those who have died over the last year. You might like, either now or later, to light a candle as a visual symbol of your prayers for them rising to heaven. Alternatively, you might want to write their names down, as a sign that they continue to be held both in your love and in the arms of God.

Trusting in God's compassion and love, let us pray.

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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.**

In the words that our Saviour has given us, we pray:

The Lord's Prayer

sung by pupils at St Frideswide's School

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.

Blessing

*given by the Bishop of Oxford,
the Rt Revd Steven Croft*

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary

*played by Benjamin Sheen,
Sub Organist*

Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727

(My soul is filled with longing)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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Locked down, open-hearted

Living life in all its fullness



COME
AND
SEE

Lots of people are asking deep questions of faith at this time. Come and See is an invitation to everyone and anyone who feels adrift in this pandemic, whether or not they know anything about the Christian faith.

oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see