

Worship from Home: Sunday Worship for 2 May

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

HYMN

Holy, holy, holy

Ellie Vivien, St Chad with St Mark's Church, Wolverhampton.

Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words:
you are holy, Lord

Santo, santo, santo,
mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir:
santo eres, Señor.

Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words:
you are holy, Lord

*Words: Spanish Traditional
Tune: Argentine Santo*

WELCOME

Rev Prebendary Sarah Schofield

The president says

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

The Lord be with you.

INTRODUCTION

Rev Sarah Schofield introduces the service

I am Sarah Schofield, Lead Chaplain for the University of Wolverhampton's Multifaith Chaplaincy and a priest in the Church of England's Diocese of Lichfield. Along with Muslim, Sikh and Christian colleagues I minister within a diverse academic community of over 25000 people. Over the past year the university has nurtured online community from Fresher Week film nights to PhD vivas. Chaplaincy has been no exception with prayer, pastoral care and shared learning have all moved online.

Now, as our 4 campuses are gradually opening up we will take much of what we have learnt into our return to campus. Moving online has broadened the range of students we support. We have realised that our old model, requiring students to come to us has much to gain from the best of our online experiences. Our building offers a place to find and create community, lockdown has shown us the internet can as well.

When on campus we do not host regular Sunday services, instead we encourage students to make and sustain relationships with local churches. The witness of Christian students and staff within the university and friendly churches are vital to university chaplaincy. This service is led by a mixture of students, staff and representatives of churches close to our Walsall and Wolverhampton campuses.

SONG

Speak, O Lord

Mitchell Holland M.Mus University of Wolverhampton

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

The president says

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.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you fill us with the living bread.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

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

REFLECTION

Esther Shonibare, Students Union Vice President for Diversity

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Elizabeth Trice 3rd Year student BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Wildlife Conservation

The reader says

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (Ch. 8: 26-40)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22: 25-31

*The Choir of St Peter's Collegiate Church Paul Carr, Organist. Callum Alger, Director.
Soloist, James Ridgway*

Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever.

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations.

How can those who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him.

He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

They shall come and make known his salvation,
to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

GOSPEL READING

Sterling Hall student MA Human Resource Management

The gospeller says

A reading from the Gospel according to John. (*Ch. 15.1-8*)

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

The Choir of St Peter's Collegiate Church Wolverhampton, Paul Carr, Organist. Callum Alger, Director.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone,
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them,
 my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them.

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*Words: Daniel L. Schutte
Tune: Here I am, Lord*

SERMON

Rev Prebendary Sarah Schofield

ANTHEM

Oculi Omnium

Libby Marsland 2nd Year Student BA (Hons) Music for Education and Community Practice and her 'St Crispin Quintet'

Oculi omnium in te sperant, Domine et tu das escam illorum in tempore opportuno.
Gloria tibi, Domine, Amen.

Translation:

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord: and thou givest them their food in due season. Amen.

Music: Charles Wood

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Chimuka Mudenda, BA. Education student and member of 'Cath Soc'

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Introduced by Rev Prebendary Sarah Schofield

During this time of prayer we're going to use hand gestures to involve our bodies as well as our minds in this time of praying for ourselves and for others. If you are able you are welcome to join in and I am just going to show to you the hand gestures different people from churches around our university campuses will be using as part of their prayers.

We will begin our prayers in a moment with hands together in the traditional way of praying for many Christians.

After this Joe from St Matthew's Church in Walsall will pray for situations of violence, conflict and anger making the sign of a fist. He will then pray for situations of brokenness and whilst he does this he will show Jesus' wounded hand illustrating this with the index finger of one hand pushed into the palm of another.

Navi, from the Eden Project in Wolverhampton will then open her hands to pray for us all to be open to God and to share our resources with those who need them.

Dr Abigail, one of our lecturers and a member of Tabernacle Baptist church will then clasp her hands together as if holding the hand of someone to pray for those who are sick, or dying or bereaved. After that prayer she will return her hands together and lead us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

So we begin our prayers with hands together as we come towards God in prayer.

We pray Lord that in this time of prayer and worship we might know you. We pray for community wherever people find it, online, in churches, at university, at work. We pray for families however and wherever we find something we know to be family.

Lord in your mercy,
All receive our prayer

Rev Joe Smith Curate St Matthew's Walsall

God of justice, we pray for all those who live in fear of violence, anger and hatred. For victims of violence of all kinds; regime, criminal, societal, domestic, emotional - loving God we pray that you console them. Not only that, we pray that you give them a voice and a safe haven to speak against those things and people that do violence against them. I pray that your Church can be that place of safety for all people, regardless of their background or belief. And I pray that your Church can lift up that voice and be an advocate for peace and love.

Lord in your mercy,
All receive our prayer

I pray that you restore friendship and instill in the hearts of your creatures the gift of trust and readiness to forgive.

God we pray for our society, for its structures and for its people. All of those ways in which we are founded on greed and division, I pray for your transformational spirit to enter in. For all of those ways we don't honour your creation, human or otherwise, and give it the dignity it deserves, I pray that you would convict us and show us what it is to love. For all those times that we place our own drive and our own ambition above love of our neighbour, teach us humility and show us the value of community. For all of those ways that we are complicit with structures of oppression whether we know it or not, God open our eyes, forgive us and help us to repent so that we can live out your kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,
All receive our prayer

Navi Alukh, 'Eden, Whitmore Reans' Wolverhampton

Navi, from All Nations Church and the Eden Project in Wolverhampton will then show open hands to encourage us to be open to God and pray for those in need physically emotionally or spiritually, to encourage us to share what we have. Open both of your hands, hold them open in front of you with your palms facing upwards as sign that that everyone needs to receive good things.

Dr Abigail Taiwo, lecturer at the University of Wolverhampton and member of the Tabernacle Baptist Church

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you so much for giving us your son Jesus Christ as our High Priest who sympathise with our weaknesses, and has been tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Lord we know that you desire that we may prosper and that we are healthy in our body and be strong in our spirit. But Lord, among us are those people suffering in body, mind and/or spirit. Dear compassionate and loving Jesus, we pray for such in our community who are currently experiencing such painful brokenness. We pray that Lord, they may find health and complete recovery.

Dear son of righteousness, please will you arise with your healing touch in your wings and make known your healing power to them. May they know your healing touch which brings an end to several years of sufferings, knowing that with you all things are possible.

Even so dear Lord, will you dispel fears, end all anxiety, and cause your peace and prosperity to come in abundance. Lord please unite their bodies with your blessings of healing, joy, life and strength. Father may those living with painful conditions know your blessings in their bodies, and your sufficient grace. May they hear your voice and accept your guidance.

May their body be moved to the place of your peace and love. We pray for those dying at this hour, dear Lord, that will you please cradle them close to you and cause pain to melt into the comfort of your presence. Will you envelop them Lord with your loving care. Lord we pray for those who are bereaved, that Lord you will bless them as they mourn. Lord, please carry them through in their sadness and pain.

May they know your comfort and consolation. Help them Lord to face each new day with renewed hope and assurance in the good that their beloved has given. Give them O Lord a heart of rest, comfort and consolation. Father, we pray that you help families to unite and hold each other in the comfort of love at this moment.

Lord in your mercy,
All receive our prayer. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is said:

**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.**

The president prays

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
through the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

Love Divine, all loves excelling

The Choir of St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Words: Charles Wesley
Tune: Blaenwern*

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Music Performed by Musicians from St Chad with St Mark, Wolverhampton, The Choir of St Peter's Collegiate Church Wolverhampton, Mitchell Holland M.Mus University of Wolverhampton, Libby Marsland 2nd Year Student BA (Hons) Music for Education and Community Practice.

BSL Interpretation by Gill Behenna.

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