

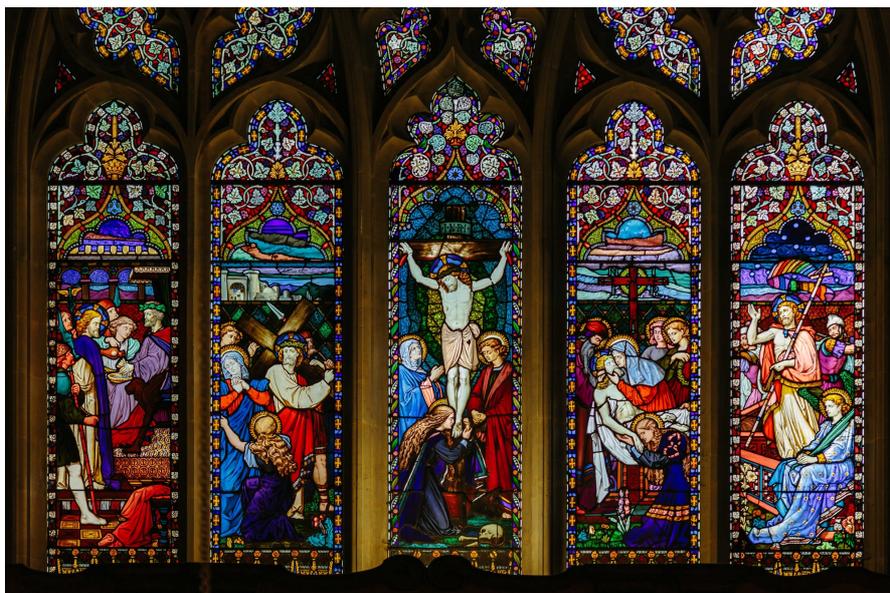


**Sunday 17 May 2020**  
**Online Evensong from University College, Oxford**

*A warm welcome to our service this week.  
Thank you for joining us from wherever you may be.*

The full text of the service is found in this pdf that you have downloaded from our Online Evensong page. An audio-recording of the full service is on the page where you found the link to this text.

Our preacher this week is the Revd Dr Sarah Brush, who is Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.



## WELCOME



Good evening, and welcome to this online Evensong from University College, Oxford.

Even if we listen by ourselves, let us remember that we join with others whom we may not see, for we know that they are listening too.

## INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all people such things as their well-being doth require.

Therefore let us continue in a moment of shared silence,  
and remember God's presence with us now.

*As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those that 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.**

## **VERSICLES AND RESPONSES**

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

O God, make speed to save us.  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
*As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Praise ye the Lord.  
*The Lord's Name be praised.*

## PSALM 23

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

Music: 'Crimond', melody by Jessie Irvine (1836-87)  
Text: Scottish Psalter, 1650

**THE FIRST LESSON**  
**From the Old Testament**  
**Genesis 8.20-9.17**



Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelt the pleasing odour, the Lord said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day and night,  
shall not cease.'

God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air, on everything that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it and from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life.

Whoever sheds the blood of a human,

by a human shall that person's blood be shed;  
for in his own image

God made humankind.

And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply  
in it.'

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

**MAGNIFICAT**  
**The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Luke 1.46-55**

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy:  
hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

**THE SECOND LESSON**  
**From the New Testament**  
**John 14.15-21**



Jesus said, '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.'

**NUNC DIMITTIS**  
**The Song of Simeon**  
**Luke 2.29-32**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared:  
before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

**THE SUNG PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*

*Let us pray.*



Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*Christ, have mercy upon us.*  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
*And grant us thy salvation.*

O Lord, save the Queen.  
*And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
*And make thy chosen people joyful.*

O Lord, save thy people.  
*And bless thine inheritance.*

Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
*Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
*And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

### **THE COLLECT FOR PEACE**

O God, from whom all holy desires,  
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:  
Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that  
both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that by thee we being defended  
from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

### **THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



**THE ANTHEM**  
**'Lift thine eyes'**

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains,  
Whence cometh help.  
Thy help cometh from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved.  
Thy Keeper will never slumber.  
Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains,  
Whence cometh help.

Words: From 'Elijah', drawing on Psalm 121.  
Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

**THE SERMON**  
**Preacher: The Revd Dr Sarah Brush**

**HYMN**  
**'This joyful Eastertide'**

This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow.  
My Love, the Crucified,  
hath sprung to life this morrow:

*Refrain:* Had Christ, that once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain;  
but now has Christ arisen,  
arisen, arisen, arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest,  
and for a season slumber:  
till trump from east to west  
shall wake the dead in number:

Death's flood has lost its chill  
since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver:

Music: Melody from *David's Psalmen* Amsterdam 1685  
Text: G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

## THE INTERCESSIONS

*As we continue together, let us pray*



God of compassion,  
in this time of pandemic,  
disruption and uncertainty,  
we pray for your world, and for all people;

Give courage and understanding  
to those in positions of authority and influence,  
that they may speak, lead and act  
in ways that are wise and fair,  
and that they may work for the common good.

Strengthen and sustain  
all those who are ill, afraid or in isolation,  
or those whose livelihoods and income are under threat,  
and comfort and uphold all those who mourn.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
In their grief be present with them.

We thank you for all who care  
for the sick and for the dying  
and for all who perform other vital roles;  
we pray that they may have the resources that they need  
and that they may return safely home each day.

Give wisdom and illumination,  
To those working to develop a vaccine,  
that this virus may be contained,  
and that we may emerge from lockdown  
able and resolved  
to work for a fairer and better world.

Let us pray also for all who teach  
and all who learn,  
and for those preparing for exams:  
for clarity of mind,  
for stamina and strength,  
and for hope for the future.

And let us pray for the College,  
that love of neighbour and all good learning  
may here for ever flourish;

through him who suffered on the cross,  
and whom you raised  
to reign with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*A prayer of St Benedict*

Almighty God,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
intellect to understand you,  
diligence to seek you,

patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate upon you  
and life to proclaim you,  
through the power of the Spirit  
of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*A prayer of John Chrysostom:*

Almighty God,  
who hast given us grace at this time with one accord  
to make our common supplications unto thee;  
and dost promise that when two or three  
are gathered together in thy name  
thou wilt grant their requests:  
Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants,  
as may be most expedient for them;  
granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth,  
and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The God of Peace  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **VOLUNTARY**



## THANKS

*Our thanks go to:*

All who support the life of the College Chapel  
The Chapel Choir, Organ Scholars, Choral Scholars and Choral  
Bursars, and their teachers  
Justin Bowyer, College Digital Communications Manager, for  
technical advice and support, and for editing and posting the  
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Alexander Newton and Harry Stuart, for editing this recording

*And to those who sang, played or read the various parts of our service:*

Versicles and Responses (Giles Underwood and Carys Lane)  
Psalm 23 (Ben Nicholas, organ, and Choir)

First Lesson (Elizabeth Adam)  
Magnificat (Henry Wendorf)  
Second Lesson (Patrick Hudson)  
Nunc Dimittis (Amaryllis Hill)  
The Sung Prayers (Giles Underwood and Carys Lane)  
The Anthem (Choir)  
Hymn – This Joyful Eastertide (Ben Nicholas, organ, and Choir)  
Voluntary (Elsa Shah)

Particular thanks go to our guest preacher, the Revd Dr Sarah Brush. Sarah is Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and Director of the Context-Based Pathway there. Her previous roles include time as a parish youth worker in High Wycombe, and as Youth Officer in the Diocese of Worcester. Before working for the church, Sarah studied for a PhD at the University of Reading, translating Latin saints' lives focused on bishops from Merovingian France. She has previously taught Latin, Medieval History, Youth Work and Church History. She co-wrote *Moving Images, Changing Lives: Exploring the Christian Life and Confirmation through Film* (Church House Publishing, 2011).

Andrew Gregory, Chaplain  
Giles Underwood, Director of Music  
15 May 2020