

The Gathering

THE GREETING

O Lord, open our lips:
and our mouths will declare your praise.

We declare our praise by singing our first hymn.

Rejoice in the Lord always:
again I will say 'Rejoice'. (Phil. 4:4)

Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.
Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.
(Col. 3:16-17)

***Heavenly Father,
in our time together now,
help us to sing of your glory,
learn from your Word,
trust in your grace
and grow strong in your service
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

PENITENCE

We reflect upon our lives, capable of so much good, but so often marred by wrong choices and selfish attitudes ... *(silence)*

***Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your
ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and
desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought
to have done; and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us in our
need. Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to
mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that from this time we may live a disciplined,
righteous and godly life, to the glory of your
holy name.
Amen.***

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

We stand to say the Gloria

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father
:receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... *(silent prayer)*

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide we may so
pass through things temporal that we lose not
our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly
Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God now and forever, Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

*Writing during the return from exile in Babylon,
the prophet offers the hope of a new king sent
by God, who will be humble and a peace-
maker.*

The Coming Ruler of God's People

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the
nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my
covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free
from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of
hope; today I declare that I will restore to you
double.

(After the reading)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to *Matthew*

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time, Jesus said 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

(After the reading)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We proclaim the Church's faith in God:

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

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?

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?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

We now ask Nigel to lead us in our prayers for the church, the world and our community.

The Prayers

Holy God, we raise our prayers to you in the power of the Spirit which unites us with Christ Jesus trusting that you will hear our prayers and use them to accomplish your will for the world and for the church.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Give grace to all in your Church: Bishop Libby, clergy, lay ministers and congregations. May we speak your word of truth with confidence and in unity so that those who are searching and listening will be able to see and hear clearly your message of love and peace.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for people and nations whose lives are affected by this global pandemic. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, we pray for the people around us in our neighbourhoods and our places of work. Help us to be responsible and sensible in all our interaction with those around us so that we do not increase the chance of infecting, or being infected by, those we meet.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for people we know who are ill, anxious or bereaved, and for those that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens. We pray that you will lead them, and us, in peace towards healing and wholeness of mind and spirit.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died ... Strengthen all who grieve, with comfort, faith and peace for Jesus sake

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we offer ourselves to you in faith and confidence. Show us as we go out into the world how we can best prepare ourselves to be part of your response to our prayers. Fill us with the Spirit of life which was in Christ Jesus, your Son and our Saviour.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

CLOSING HYMN

CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Almighty and everlasting Father,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin
or running into danger;
order us in all our doings;
and guide us to do always
what is right in your eyes;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Whilst the Government and the House of Bishops have stated that we may begin to open our churches for collective worship, please note that it says "May" NOT "Must", but really our ability to do so depends upon many factors, not least the importance of minimising risk to those church helpers who might clean our churches but also observing the social distancing requirements of those who may wish to attend..

There will be an update on this soon, but in the meantime, remember that St Oswald's, is open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 6pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER that you can stay connected during the week by logging on to our website ashbournechurch.org.uk where you will find the weekly pew news and much more.

As usual at 11.30 this morning we will hold our virtual coffee time on zoom. If you go to the front page of our website you'll find the link – just give it a click at and we'll see you all there !!

THE BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.