

Holy Trinity

Headington Quarry



Candlemas

Sunday 31st January 2021

The Gathering

Welcome and parish prayer

Hymn

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

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

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
In the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The
messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is
coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his
coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!
watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel reading: Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped

there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Revd Dr Laura Biron Scott

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

Hymn

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations —
it is time he should appear!'

Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer E

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the Temple

in substance of our flesh

to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people

and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the
nations,

while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,

he was lifted high upon the cross

and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart

when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name

that we, too, have seen your salvation

and join with angels and archangels

in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The president receives communion whilst people join in from their homes.

Anthem Beati quorum via, Stanford

Prayer after Communion

Almighty Father,
whose Son our saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they 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;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Music

Prelude in B Minor, J.S. Bach, recorded by Rosie Tweddle

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NOTICES

Lent at HTHQ

Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February (Ash Wednesday). Here are some details of Lent courses and groups being planned, with more details to follow:

'For such a time as this'. A Lent Course exploring ecological justice, from USPG. Each session features Bible study, stories of hope and encouragement from USPG partner churches across the world, and opportunities to reflect on how, as Christians, we can respond to the climate emergency. This course will run on Zoom on **Tuesday evenings in Lent from 7-8pm**, starting on **Tuesday 23rd February**. You may also like to do the course individually or in home groups. Please let Helen know if you plan to attend (office@hthq.uk), and if you would like a print-out of the booklet which can be downloaded here:

<https://www.uspg.org.uk/engage/support5/forsuchatime/lent-course-2021/>

Lent Poetry Challenge

Many of us have turned to poetry for wisdom during this time, and may find it helpful to commit to reading a poem a day during Lent, following Malcolm Guite's book *Word in the Wilderness* (Canterbury Press, 2014). Laura will be holding three Zoom sessions to read and discuss some of the poems together. These will be on **Monday evenings (1st, 15th, 29th March) at 7-8pm**. Please let Laura know if you would like to take part (vicar@hthq.uk).

Come and See

Lots of people are asking deep questions of faith at this time. 'Come and See', run through Oxford Diocese, is an invitation to everyone and anyone who feels adrift in this pandemic, whether or not they know anything about the Christian faith. You can find more details and register here: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/>

Prayers for Hope and Healing

This contemplative prayer gathering will meet weekly on Thursdays at 8.30pm during Lent, beginning Thursday 25th February. The focus will be: seeing salvation, praying through art.

OTHER NOTICES

New Lockdown

Although communal worship can still take place during this third lockdown, we have taken the difficult decision to pause communal worship and continue with online services only. A letter setting out this decision in more detail can be found on the church website. Funerals will still be able to take place in church, with a maximum of 30 people attending. The church will be open for private prayer at weekends only, owing to the electrical work taking place during the week. We hope to resume communal worship, even in a limited way, in time for Lent and Easter, and we will keep the situation under review over the coming weeks. Please do get in touch with Laura or the churchwardens if you have any questions or concerns about this.

Electrical Works

Let there be light! We are pleased that the first phase of our building project will begin on Monday 11th January, and we look forward to new lighting, a new sound system, and interior redecoration. Please note that there will be no access to the church building during the week, and anyone with a church key who needs to arrange access must contact the site manager (via the parish office). Please pray for the contractors and all involved with our building project as we begin this first phase, and plan for the next:

*Eternal God, Father Son and Holy Spirit
Bless the work that will be taking place over the coming weeks
May the contractors work safely and diligently.
May the work that takes place be done
to the glory and honour of your name,
that all who visit this house of prayer,
may be drawn out of darkness into your marvellous light.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Survey about church life

To help us plan during this current phase of the pandemic, and beyond, we would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes filling out this online form, which gives you a chance to share ideas and feedback about worship, ways to stay connected, and other issues that may be on your heart. The survey is anonymous and can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1q3C7UOirhirIPAgQ7bz4D8irT_bNP7GAb2d1-W-GvgI/edit

Oxford Hospitals Trust Staff Appeal

Support during the COVID-19 crisis can help make a real difference to the NHS staff working across our hospitals and the patients they are caring for at this difficult time. Donations go towards a range of items including specialist medical equipment, care boxes and hampers for staff who are most affected, care packs for patients, virtual music concerts and phone chargers to help those on wards who feel isolated or bored, especially with visiting restricted. Please go here to donate if you are able:

<https://www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/Appeal/staffsupport>

Morning Prayer: Weekly on Mondays at 9am

A chance to pause for prayer at the beginning of the week. The focus for prayer will be the psalms, which offer ancient wisdom for contemporary times.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782891843?pwd=S25BN0E3QUF6aXk5cHBETktaRmhlZ09>

Meeting ID: 867 8289 1843

Passcode: 309879

Prayers for Hope and Healing: Thursdays at 8.30pm

A fortnightly time of silent prayer for hope and healing of our world, with an opening reflection leading to a time of silence. The next meeting is Thursday 4th February.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86007797102?pwd=S2FoNmVORkx6VHZZa3lNYXJuUWZhaZ09>

Meeting ID: 860 0779 7102

Passcode: 603291

Covid-19 Study

Dr Merlin Wilcox, a member of our congregation and researcher at the University of Southampton, is running an online study on Covid-19, which is looking for volunteers:

Help beat Covid-19! Whether you have had COVID or not, you can help researchers understand how to beat the virus by completing a survey run by the University of Southampton. You could win one of 62 vouchers (£5 to £500). See www.rtocovid19.com for more details.

Big Garden Birdwatch: 29th-31st January

As we continue to stay home, some of us may be able to take part in this year's big garden birdwatch. Spend one hour in your garden watching and counting the different birds you see. More details can be found on the RSPB website, including some tips on attracting birds to your garden, and a chart to help you identify the birds you see.

*'the birds of the air make their nests
and sing among the branches.
O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all
the earth is full of your creatures' (Psalm 104.13,26)*

How the Light Gets in: A short retreat with Angela Tilby

An afternoon online retreat on **Saturday 13th February**, run by the Oxford Centre for Spiritual Growth, reflecting on Leonard Cohen's quote: 'There's a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in'. With priest, journalist and broadcaster Angela Tilby. Please see <http://www.ocsg.uk.net/> for more details.