



Diocesan Reaffirmation of Ministry Vows

Maundy Thursday
9 April 2020 at 11am

This is a Maundy Thursday unlike any we will have known.

This year we are not able to gather in the Cathedral, we are not able to break bread together, or pray over the oils. Our church buildings are closed. But we are still the church, and those of us ordained and licenced are still called to recommit ourselves to the ministry of word and of sacrament for this is our vocation. Our calling to proclaim the mighty works of God, who in the events that we will celebrate in these coming days overcomes darkness and death with resurrection light is more precious, more needed than ever before. We live in a world that longs for hope, the hope we see in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, ascended, Lord of all time and space.

It is thus a great joy and a gift to us that we can still gather, not in one place but still as one body, joined from our homes across the Diocese to affirm again the promises we made when we first accepted this call. We do so humbly, aware of the greatness of the charge laid upon us and our need of God's grace, we do so in a spirit of service as we fashion our lives on the pattern of the one who came not to be served but to served and we do so gladly and with joy, for our trust and our confidence is in Christ.

When our church buildings re-open for public worship we will gather again in one place, we will sing of God's goodness, break the bread of life and share the cup of salvation, we will pray over the oils

But we do not wait for that day, for now, this day, in this land, 'we will serve the Lord' (Joshua 24: 16), we will call on God's name, make known God's deeds, tell of God's wonderful works and Glory in God's holy name. (I Chronicles 16: 8f)

+ Rachel

+ Robert

Before our worship begins there are words of welcome from The Dean,
The Very Revd Stephen Lake.

¶ *The Gathering*

Acclamation and Greeting

The Bishop says

Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests
to serve his God and Father.

All **Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.**

Grace, mercy and peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

The Bishop introduces the service.

Act of Penitence

The Bishop says

Come, let us return to the Lord.

Silence is kept for a short while.

All **Lord our God,**
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Bishop says

The Lord's grace enrich you,
and the Lord's blessing nourish you;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All Amen.

The Collect

After a short time in silent prayer, the Bishop says

Heavenly Father,
who anointed your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom:
anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,
that we who share in his suffering and his victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
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.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:3-10

The Archdeacon of Gloucester

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’* and he said, ‘Here I am!’ ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

There follows a time of silence and stillness.

Gospel Reading

Luke 7: 36 – 50

The Archdeacon of Cheltenham

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus* to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.’ ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’

‘Teacher,’ he replied, ‘speak.’ ⁴¹‘A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii,^{*} and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?’ ⁴³Simon answered, ‘I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.’ And Jesus^{*} said to him, ‘You have judged rightly.’ ⁴⁴Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.’ ⁴⁸Then he said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ ⁴⁹But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester

Renewal of Ordination Vows

The Bishop says

My brothers and sisters, at his Last Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, and he prayed that they might be one. He gave them an everlasting sign of his own love, in the sacrament of bread and wine.

He consecrated himself to his Father’s service, to be the high priest of the New Covenant. I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service, as stewards of the mysteries of God, and ministers of his grace.

At your ordination you accepted the yoke of Christ for love of the Lord and his Church. Are you resolved to unite yourself more closely to Christ and to become more like him, joyfully sacrificing your own pleasures and ambitions to bring his peace and love to your brothers and sisters?

The deacons, priests and bishops answer

With the help of God, I am.

With the example of the Lord who washed his disciples' feet, will you be faithful in serving the needs of others and diligent in caring for those in need and trouble, in strengthening the faithful and in searching out the indifferent and the lost?

Deacons, priests and bishops

By the help of God, I will.

Will you fashion your life according to the pattern of Christ, that you may be a true pastor, by word and example, to the people among whom you serve?

Deacons, priests and bishops

By the help of God, I will.

Will you work in partnership with all whom the Lord has given you, and encourage all the baptized to grow as the royal priesthood of the new covenant?

Deacons, priests and bishops

By the help of God, I will.

Will you be a faithful minister of the mysteries of God by leading the worship of his people with devotion and care and by teaching the Christian faith with conviction and joy?

Deacons, priests and bishops

By the help of God, I will.

Will you continue to follow the way of Christ, the head and shepherd of the Church of God, whose grace is sufficient to meet your need?

Deacons, priests and bishops

By the help of God, I will.

The Dean asks the bishops

Will you be faithful to the promise you made at your consecration to uphold the truth of the Gospel?

The bishops answer

By the help of God, I will.

Will you promote unity, peace and love among all Christian people, especially in this diocese, and be diligent in prayer and the reading of the holy Scriptures?

Bishops

By the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to become more like our High Priest and Good Shepherd, the Teacher and Servant of all, and so be an authentic sign of Christ's loving presence among us?

Bishops

By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says to the Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers

When you were commissioned and licensed, you undertook to be faithful in prayer and by word and example to minister to those for whom Christ died. Will you make every effort to promote peace and unity, and conduct yourself as becomes a worker for Christ, for the good of his Church, and for the spiritual welfare of all?

The Readers and Lay Ministers answer

By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says to the whole congregation:

My brothers and sisters, as we pray for you as our partners in the Gospel, so we ask you to pray for us.

Ask the Lord to bless us with the fullness of his love, that we may be faithful servants of Christ, our great High Priest, serving the Church with gifts that encourage and equip the people of God, and make Christ known in our generation.

**All Lord Jesus Christ,
hear us and answer our prayer.**

The Bishop says

Almighty God,
who has given us the will to undertake all these things,
give us also the strength to perform them,
that the work God has begun in us may be completed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury leads prayers of intercession which conclude with the LIFE prayer and the Lord's prayer

The LIFE Prayer

**All God of hope and transformation,
who in our Lord Jesus Christ
offers the gift of life in all its fullness,
send your Holy Spirit and grant us
joy in our following and vision in our leadership.
May we be rich in imagination,
confident in faith,
and courageous in our engagement with
the people and places of this diocese.
As we share your life with the world,
keep us rooted and grounded in love.**

**As we bear witness to your glory,
we pray for your Kingdom to come. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All 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.**

¶ The Dismissal

The Blessing

The Bishop says

All Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

All Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

All **Amen.**

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

All **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Dean says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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