

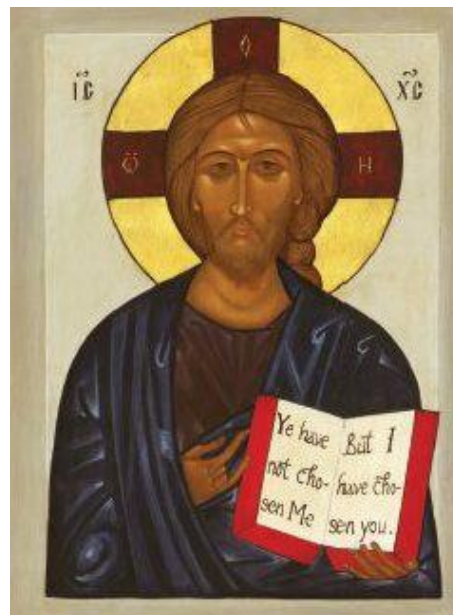
A Service of the Word to welcome Phyl Sopp as a licensed minister

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A large candle may be lit

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
to you be praise and glory for ever!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
You gave Christ as a light to the nations,
and through the anointing of his Spirit
you established us as a royal priesthood.
As you call us into his marvellous light,
may our lives bear witness to his truth
and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.



Hymn

As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after You;
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield ,
to You alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my hearts desire
and I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver
only You can satisfy;
You alone are the real joy giver
and the apple of my eye.

You're my friend and You are my brother,
even though You are a King.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

Prayers of Penitence

God has called us to follow Christ,
and has formed us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us
out of darkness into his marvellous light.
Let us confess the times when we have failed to heed this call.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:
'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.'
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful
but the labourers are few.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies
cleans us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray for the ministry of the whole people of God.

Silence is kept.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7.15-25a

Second Reading

At that time Jesus said, 16‘To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

17“‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

18For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; 19the 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.

25I 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; 26yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27All 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.

28Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

Prayers of intercession, *concluding with*

**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.**

Hymn

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 born my peoples 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?

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,
Whom shall I send?

An Act of Commitment

Christ, you call us.

Help us respond to your call.

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world.
We will follow your call to be our people:
our hands will do your work,
our feet will walk your way.
Christ, you call us.

Help us respond to your call.

Christ, you call each one to be your child for the world.
may our hearts search for your truth,
may our souls listen for your voice,
may our lives follow in your path.
Christ, you call each one of us.

Help us respond to your call.

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world.

We are the body of Christ.

Welcome to Phyl Sopp as Licensed Minister prior to ordination

The Blessing

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,
may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,
may the gifts of the Spirit equip you
to serve and worship God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

This is a public occasion. Please be aware that photography and filming will take place during the service, and that the service is being livestreamed to those unable to attend. No other photography or filming is permitted during the service. Still and video images captured today may be used in other materials published by the church or the Diocese of Oxford. Please speak to a welcomer prior to the start of the service if you have concerns. For any questions or concerns following the service please email sally514@btinternet.com