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**Choral Evensong**

**Wednesday 30th November 2022**

*Advent 1*

*Welcome to our service of choral evensong. From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during the day and night to respond to God’s word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercessions for the salvation of the world. In the sixteenth century, the monastic services of vespers and compline were combined to create one evening service, and so, even today, we join together with worshippers around the world in this ancient practice.*

*The pattern of the service forms a kind of conversation between us and God, as we hear the word of God in the readings and then respond in prayer with the Psalm, Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, Responses and Anthem. You are invited to join in this conversation – by saying the prayers in bold, and by listening to the choir sing the prayers and words of Scripture for you in this sacred space.*

*May this time of worship enable you to experience afresh the love and peace of God today.*

*All stand for the entry of the ministers and choir.*

**Introit**

*Sung by the choir – Angelus ad pastores ait,* Raffaella Aleotti

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| Angelus ad pastores ait:  annuntio vobis gaudium magnum, quia natus est vobis hodie Salvator mundi.’  Alleluja. | *The angel said to the shepherds:*  *‘I bring you tidings of great joy, for the Saviour of the world has been born to you today.’*  *Alleluia.* |

*Text: Luke 2:10—11*

**Welcome**

*All sit.*

**Prayer of confession**

*Minister* Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying:

***All*  Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep: We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts: We have offended against thy holy laws: We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders: Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults: Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

**Prayer after confession**

*Minister* Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit; that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All* 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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All stand.*

**Preces**

*Sung by the choir* *– setting by* Thomas Tallis

*Minister* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir*  And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

*Minister*  O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir*  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.

*Remain standing.*

**Psalms 76**

*Sung by the choir – chant by* JonathanBattishill

1 In Jewry is God known : his Name is great in Israel.

2 At Salem is his tabernacle : and his dwelling in Sion.

3 There brake he the arrows of the bow : the shield, the sword, and the battle.

4 Thou art of more honour and might : than the hills of the robbers.

5 The proud are robbed, they have slept their sleep : and all the men whose hands were mighty have found nothing.

6 At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob : both the chariot and horse are fallen.

7 Thou, even thou art to be feared : and who may stand in thy sight when thou art angry?

8 Thou didst cause thy judgement to be heard from heaven : the earth trembled, and was still;

9 When God arose to judgement : and to help all the meek upon earth.

10 The fierceness of man shall turn to thy praise : and the fierceness of them shalt thou refrain.

11 Promise unto the Lord your God, and keep it, all ye that are round about him : bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.

12 He shall refrain the spirit of princes : and is wonderful among the kings of the earth.

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.

*All sit.*

**First Lesson**

Isaiah 2:1—5

*All stand.*

**Magnificat**

*Sung by the choir – plainsong*

*My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

*For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.*

*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 showed 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 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.*

*(Luke 1:46-55)*

*All sit.*

**Second Lesson**

Matthew 24:36—44

*All stand.*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*Sung by the choir – plainsong*

*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.*

*(Luke 2:29-32)*

**Apostles’ Creed**

***All* I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary: suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead: he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints: the forgiveness of sins: the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Responses and collects**

*Sung by the choir – setting by* Thomas Tallis

*Minister* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Minister*  Let us pray.

*All sit.*

*Choir* 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.

*Minister*  O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Minister* O Lord, save the King.

*Choir*  And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Minister* Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Minister*  O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir*  And bless thine inheritance.

*Minister* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O

God.

*Minister*  O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir*  And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

**The Collect for the Day**

*Minister* Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*Choir* Amen

**The Collect for Peace**

*Minister* 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.

*Choir* Amen.

**The Collect for aid against all perils**

*Minister* 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.

*Choir* Amen

**Sermon**

Revd. Tessa Bosworth

**Anthem**

*Sung by the choir – Vigilate,* William Byrd

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| --- | --- |
| Vigilate, nescitis enim quando  dominus domus veniat,  sero, an media nocte,  an gallicantu, an mane.  Vigilate ergo, ne cum venerit repente, inveniat vos dormientes.  Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico: vigilate. | Watch ye therefore, for you know not when the lord of the house cometh,  at even, or at midnight,  or at the cock crowing, or in the morning.  Watch therefore, lest coming on a sudden, he find you sleeping.  And what I say to you, I say to all:  Watch. |

*Text: Mark 13:35-37*

**A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

*Minister* 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**.

*All stand.*

**Hymn**

**Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes (NEH 6)**

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,

The Saviour promised long!

Let every heart prepare a throne,

And every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release

In Satan's bondage held;

The gates of brass before him burst,

The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,

The bleeding soul to cure,

And with the treasures of his grace

Enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,

Thy welcome shall proclaim,

And heaven's eternal arches ring

With thy belovèd name.

*Tune: BRISTOL, Thomas Ravenscroft, 1621*

*Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51*

**Blessing**

*Minister* May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Organ Voluntary**

*Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn, BWV 601 –* J.S. Bach

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Holy Sepulchre

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