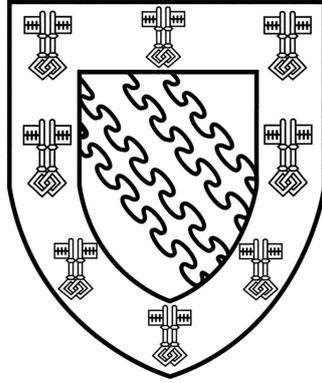


EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL



UNIVERSITY SERMON ON THE SIN OF PRIDE

22 November 2020



WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE BROADCAST FROM EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL

This service is based around the order for Choral Evensong, a product of the Reformation, whereby sections from the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline were combined to produce one of the gems of Anglican liturgy. Evensong is, at its core, a service of the Word of God: the readings, canticles responses, and some of the prayers are taken from Holy Scripture. This is enhanced by choral settings of some parts of the service, adding to the mystery and bringing alive these ancient texts.

Choral Evensong is a profoundly beautiful service, although if this is your first experience of it you may find some of it puzzling. To help with this, on the left hand pages of this booklet is a brief guide and commentary, explaining the service. Please take the booklet away with you and read the guide at your leisure; don't let it distract your worship.

Some of the wording and terminology has changed its meaning over the centuries; notably the word 'miserable', which to a sixteenth century audience meant 'seeking mercy', rather than being grumpy or feeling low.

Evensong is a mixture between actively participating in the worship by singing, responding, and praying the words, and also by allowing the choir, readers, and clergy to pray, and sing, and speak on your behalf, allowing you to reflect on the text or any issues you may be facing.

The Confession

The confession at the beginning of the service serves to call to mind our actions and to think of them, and the implications they have for us, for our neighbours and society. In making our confession we are trusting in the mercy, forgiveness, and hope of God who is merciful and faithful. The Absolution, although pronounced by a priest, comes from God

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in d, Op. 16, No. 3 *Clara Schumann*

HYMN

Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel harps, forever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us
and wilt hear us? Yea, we can.

For we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise combine;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
Of thine own to thee;
And for thine acceptance proffer
All unworthily
Hearts and minds and hands and voices
In our choicest Psalmody.

Honour, glory, might and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Blessed Trinity.
Of the best which thou hast given
Earth and heaven render thee.

Words: F. Pott

Music: Angel voices, E. Monk

THE BIDDING PRAYER

YE shall pray for Christ's Holy Catholic Church, that is, for the whole congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the whole world, and especially for the Church of England; and herein for the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, also for Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles, Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family. Ye shall also pray for the ministers of God's holy Word and Sacraments, as well Archbishops and Bishops, as other Pastors and Curates; for the Queen's most honourable Council; for the High Court of Parliament; and for all the Nobility and Magistrates of this realm: that all and every of these, in their several callings, may serve truly and diligently to the glory of God and the edifying and well governing of His people, remembering the account that they must make. Also ye shall pray for the whole Commons of the Realm, that they may live in true faith and fear of God, in dutiful obedience to the Queen, and in brotherly charity one to another. And, that there may never be wanting a succession of persons duly qualified for the service of God in church and state, ye shall implore His especial blessing on all places of religious and useful learning, particularly on our Universities; and here in Oxford for the right honourable Lord Patten of Barnes our Chancellor, for the Vice-Chancellor, for the Doctors, the Proctors, and all Heads of Colleges and Halls with their respective societies; more particularly am I bound to pray for the good estate of Keble College: that here, and in all places specially set apart for God's honour and service, true religion and sound learning may forever flourish and abound.

To these your prayers ye shall add unfeigned praises for mercies already received; for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this

life; particularly for the advantages afforded in this place by the munificence of Founders and Benefactors, such as were Cardinal Henry Beaufort Bishop of Winchester, Thomas second Earl Brassey, Henry Wilde, Arturo Serena, Walter Gordon, Kenneth Grahame, Francis Llewellyn and Nora Griffith, Alice Mary May, John Beeston Lockey, Raymond William and Hope Fennell, Gaspard Oliver Farrer, Sir John Rhys and Olwen his daughter, Henry Norman and Nellie Maud Emma Spalding, Jacob Patrick Ronaldson Lyell, William Richard Morris Viscount Nuffield, Charles Watson Boise, Henry Lord Sanderson, Rudolph and Ann Light, Emma Frederica Isabella Dunston, and René Hugo Thalmann, eminent benefactors to this University; in addition to whom I am bound to mention the Revd William Master, Vicar of Preston, near Cirencester, the founder of this sermon. But, above all, ye shall praise God for His inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Finally ye shall praise God for all those who are departed out of this life in the faith of Christ, and pray that we may have grace to direct our lives after their good example; that, this life ended, we may be made partakers with them of the glorious resurrection in the life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour.

Let us pray: 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.

THE PRECES

William Smith

Chaplain: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Chaplain: 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. Praise ye the Lord.

The Preces

Immediately after having been forgiven our sins, we praise God through the preces. The Preces, the Latin plural of prex, meaning prayer, are short versicles and responses; these are taken from the psalms. All stand for the Gloria [Glory be to the Father &c] as a mark of respect for the Holy Trinity.

The Psalm, Lessons, and Canticles

From this point the service changes from confession and praise to focussing on the word of God. One or several psalms are sung by the choir; there are two readings, one from the Hebrew Bible and one from the New Testament. These are interspersed with the canticles, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Both are taken from Luke's Gospel, and are Mary and Simeon's response to the revelation of God and his love for them and the world. At Choral Evensong the choir sings the psalm and canticles on behalf of the congregation. You may like to use this as an opportunity to enjoy being enveloped in music, to pray the words they sing, or simply to listen.

William Petre in his Statutes for Exeter College appointed Psalm 121 as the College Psalm, to be said daily. This tradition continues each morning as Psalm 121 is said at the beginning of morning prayer.

PSALM 98

O sing unto the Lord a new song for he hath done marvellous things. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm hath he gotten himself the victory. The Lord declared his salvation his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands, sing, rejoice, and give thanks. Praise the Lord upon the harp sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving. With trumpets also, and shawms O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is the round world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord for he is come to judge the earth. With righteousness shall he judge the world and the people with equity.

Music: Evelyn Medley

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 16. 14 – 23

But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the Lord is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to

Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

MAGNIFICAT

*Evening Service in F
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
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 shewed 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 hath 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 forever.
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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3. 12 – 17

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

NUNC DIMITTIS

*Evening Service in F
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor*

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.

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.

The Apostles' Creed

After the Nunc Dimittis we turn to face the Altar to recite the Apostles' Creed. If you have no faith, please do not feel obligated to say the words. Traditionally all turn to face the altar, liturgical east, to remind us that Christianity is a faith illumined by the light of the resurrection dawn.

The Lesser Litany and Responses

Like the preces, the lesser litany and responses are short petitions to God; some are taken from scripture, others from ancient texts of the church. The Lord's Prayer, common to all Christians, reminds us that we are not just praying in Exeter Chapel but form a worldwide fellowship.

The responses are 'soundbite prayers': they reflect some of the general needs of society as well as our relationship with God. Situated after the bible readings they illustrate how prayer and praise are our responses to God's love

The Collects

This section of prayer concludes with the collects. These are longer prayers than the responses, and many were translated or composed by Thomas Cranmer when the first prayer book was compiled in 1549. At Evensong the first collect is associated with the specific date or festival, the last two collects do not change.

The Anthem

The Prayer Book introduces the anthem; 'in quires and places where they sing, here followeth the anthem', and as such the anthem of today finds its roots Anglican worship. The words are often taken from scripture, as in tonight's anthem, but poetry, prose, and a combination of all three are common.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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 Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body;
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE LESSER LITANY AND RESPONSES

Chaplain: The Lord be with you:

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Chaplain: Let us pray.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.
Amen.**

Chaplain: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
Choir: And grant us thy salvation.
Chaplain: O Lord, save the Queen;
Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Chaplain: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.
Chaplain: O Lord, save thy people;
Choir: And bless thine inheritance.
Chaplain: Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only
thou O God.
Chaplain: O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir: Amen.

THE SECOND COLLECT, AT EVENING PRAYER

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 THIRD COLLECT, FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

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.

HYMN

O Lord of hosts, all heaven possessing,
And hid in splendour all thine own,
In doubt and darkness dimly guessing,
All might thy glory half have known:
But now in Christ we see thy face,
Behold thy love, and know thy grace.

 Illumine all thy chosen teachers
 The Spirit's wisdom to unfold;
From out the Scriptures may thy preachers
Bring forth its treasures new and old,
And oldest, youngest find in thee
Of truth and love the boundless sea.

Let faith still light the lamp of science,
And knowledge own thee Lord of truth;
Let age still find in thee reliance,
Nor lost the primal awe of youth;
So better, wiser, may me grow,
As time's swift currents onward flow.

The Sermon, Prayers, and Dismissal

After the anthem the service departs from the structure of Evensong: there is a hymn and sermon, during which the preacher will attempt to explore the readings or issues of the day and relate them to everyday life. More informal prayers follow, when we pray specifically for the College, the World, those in need and ourselves. Through prayer we ask for grace to continue the work of sharing God's love in our own day, in our relationships, and in all our endeavours. A final hymn and blessing conclude the service. The dismissal sentences after the blessed are taken from Psalm 121, and are unique to Exeter College Chapel.

Preserve us here in mystic union
With saints in heaven from sin set free,
And hold us in that blest communion
Of all on earth who trust in thee;
So keep our souls, or there or here,
Within that love which casts out fear.

Words: Editors of New English Hymnal, from E. Plumptre
Music: Wenn nur den lieben Gott, G. Newmark

THE SERMON

Sir Jonathan Phillips
Warden of Keble College

THE ANTHEM

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing,
in words of youth and praises of the Spring,
walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray,
and sing as sunlight fills the waking day;
till angels, voyaging in upper air,
pause on a wing and gather the clear sound
into celestial joy, wound and unwound,
a silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth,
in words of music, and each word a truth;
marriage of heart and longings that aspire,
a bond of roses, and a ring of fire.
Your summertime grows short and fades away,
terror must gather to a martyr's death;
but never tremble, the last indrawn breath
remembers music as an echo may.

Through the cold aftermath of centuries,
Cecilia's music dances in the skies;
lend us a fragment of the immortal air,
that with your choiring angels we may share,
a word to light us thro' time-fettered night,
water of life, or rose of paradise,
so from the earth another song shall rise
to meet your own in heaven's long delight.

Words: Ursula Vaughan Williams

Music: Herbert Howells

THE PRAYERS

The prayers conclude with:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all ever more.
Amen.**

HYMN

How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

Words: J. Mason
Music: Coe Fen, K. Naylor

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth 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 the God of Love: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in:
From this time forth, for ever more. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 545 *J.S. Bach*