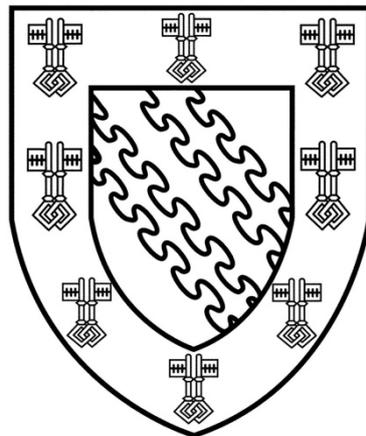


EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL



CHORAL EVENSONG
27 November 2020



WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE BROADCAST FROM
EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL

This service of Choral Evensong is 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.

Daily prayer has been offered in the College Chapel since its foundation by Walter de Stapledon in 1314. The prayers of today join with those of our predecessors, as we continue to pray for the life of the College, our Livings, the University, and World.

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.



The service starts with a sentence of scripture. On feast days a hymn may be sung. This is followed by the Preces. The Preces are short prayers of praise, glorifying God, who, as the Gloria [Glory be to the Father &c] states is Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Psalm, Lessons, and Canticles

After an initial act of praise the service chances to focus 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.

THE ORDER FOR CHORAL EVENSONG

HYMN

Let all the world, in every corner sing:
My God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly,
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow,
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and king!

Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and king!
The church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and king!

Words: G. Herbert

Music: Luckington, B. Harwood

The Service is introduced

THE PRECES

Plainsong

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.
The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM 126

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion then were we like unto them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with joy. Then said they among the heathen The Lord hath done great things for them. Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already whereof we rejoice. Turn our captivity, O Lord as the rivers in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

PSALM 127

Except the Lord build the house their labour is but lost that build it. Except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh but in vain. It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness for so he giveth his beloved sleep. Lo, children and the fruit of the womb are an heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord. Like as the arrows in the hand of the giant even so are the young children. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them they shall not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

PSALM 128

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord and walk in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be. Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine upon the walls of thine house. Thy children like the olive-branches round about thy table. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The Lord from out of Sion shall so bless thee that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long. Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children and peace upon Israel.

PSALM 129

Many a time have they fought against me from my youth up may Israel now say. Yea, many a time have they vexed me from my youth up but they have not prevailed against me. The ploughers ploughed upon my back and made long furrows. But the righteous Lord hath hewn the snares of the ungodly in pieces. Let them be confounded and turned backward as many as have evil will at Sion. Let them be even as the grass growing upon the house-tops which withereth afore it be plucked up; Whereof the mower filleth not his hand neither he that bindeth up the sheaves his bosom. So that they who go by say not so much as, The Lord prosper you we wish you good luck in the Name of the Lord.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 48

Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The Lord of hosts is his name. I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass. Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass; I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them. Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them. They are created now, and not from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not; lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them. Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb. For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off. Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another. Harken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together. All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The Lord hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans. I, even I, have spoken; yea, I have called him: I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous. Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me. Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

MAGNIFICAT

*Evening Service in A
H. Sumsion*

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 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 we 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.

Luke 1. 46 – 55

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 15

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with

golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

NUNC DIMITTIS

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.

Luke 2. 29 – 32

The Apostles' Creed

After the Nunc Dimittis we turn to face the Altar to recite the Apostles' Creed. 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 Apostles' Creed was developed by the early Church as a teaching tool for those preparing for baptism, and thus admission to the church. Today the Creed serves as a summary of Christian belief.

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, but poetry, prose, and a combination of all three are common.

The Prayers and Dismissal

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 hymn and dismissal conclude the service. The dismissal sentences are taken from Psalm 121, and are unique to Exeter College Chapel.

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

Minister The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Minister Let us pray.

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister 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.**

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Minister O Lord, save the Queen.
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 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.

THE ANTHEM

The eyes of all wait upon thee;
and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand,
and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Words: Psalm 145, 15–16

Music: Jean Berger

THE PRAYERS

Ending 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

The duteous day now closeth,
Each flower and tree reposes,
Shade creeps o'er wild and wood:
Let us, as night is falling,
On God our Maker calling,
Give thanks to him, the giver good.

Now all the heav'nly splendour
Breaks forth in starlight tender
From myriad worlds unknown;
And man, the marvel seeing,
Forgets his selfish being,
For joy of beauty not his own.

His care he drowneth yonder,
Lost in the abyss of wonder;
To Heav'n his soul doth steal:
This life he disesteemeth,
The day it is that dreameth,
That doth from truth his vision seal.

Awhile his mortal blindness
May miss God's loving-kindness,
And grope in faithless strife:
But when life's day is over
Shall death's fair night discover
The fields of everlasting life.

Words: P. Gerhart, trans. R. Bridges

Music: O Welt, ich muß dich lassen, arr. J.S. Bach

THE DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Ceremonial March *Sumsion*