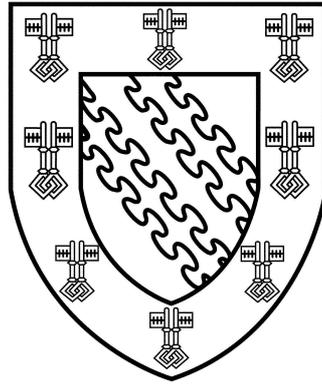


EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL



CHORAL EVENSONG

25 April 2021



WELCOME TO 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, the completely italicised pages of this booklet are a brief guide and commentary, explaining the service.

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.

This Service has been recorded in Exeter College Chapel for broadcast.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
Heaven thunders forth its victor-cry: *Alleluya!*
The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
And groaning hell makes wild reply: *Alleluya!*

That Eastertide with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light, *Alleluya!*
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The glad apostles saw their Lord: *Alleluya!*

He bade them see his hands, his side,
Where yet the glorious wounds abide; *Alleluya!*
The tokens true which made it plain
Their Lord indeed was risen again: *Alleluya!*

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored; *Alleluya!*
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally: *Alleluya!*

Words: Latin, fourth century, trans. J. Neale
Music: Laßt uns erfreuen, seventeenth century
Cologne, arranged R. Vaughan Williams

THE CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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 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.

THE ABSOLUTION

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PRECES

Reading

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.

Chaplain: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Chaplain: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

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.

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.

¶ *The choir chants the Easter Anthems.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

therefore let us keep the feast;

not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more:

death hath no more dominion over him.

For that he died, he died unto sin once:

but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed to sin:

but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ is risen from the dead:

and become the first-fruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death:

by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die,

even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Glory be to the Father &c

Antiphon: O filii et filiae, harm. C.V. Stanford

Verses: Miss Humberston

THE FIRST LESSON

Jonah 1

Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy

God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land. Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. Wherefore they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech thee, O Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased thee. So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service in g *H. Purcell*

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

Luke 24. 13 – 35

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they

found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Evening Service in g *H. Purcell*

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 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, 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

O God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir: Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

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

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

Now is eternal life,
If risen with Christ we stand,
In him to life reborn,
And holden in his hand;
No more we fear death's ancient dread,
In Christ arisen from the dead.

And God, the living God,
Stooped down to our estate;
By death destroying death,
Christ opened wide life's gate.
He lives, who died; he reigns on high;
Who lives in him shall never die.

Unfathomed love divine,
Reign thou within my heart;
From thee nor depth nor height,
Nor life nor death can part;
My life is hid in God with thee,
Now and through all eternity.

Words: G. Briggs
Music: Christchurch, C. Steggall

THE SERMON
The Chaplain

THE ANTHEM

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heav'n for you, who are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. But as he which hath calleth you is Holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. Love one another with a pure heart fervently. See that ye love one another. Love one another with a pure heart fervently. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever, Amen.

Words: from 1 Peter
Music: S.S. Wesley

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

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph wong;
O let the song of praise be sung. Alleluya!

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
Let should of praise and joy outburst. Alleluya!

On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majstry to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain. Alleluya!

He brake the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell;
Let hyns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluya!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
From death's dread sting by servants free,
That we may live, and sing to thee. Alleluya!

Words: seventeenth century Latin, trans. F. Pott

Music: M. Vulpius, Jena 1609

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight: and the blessing of the God of love; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost be with you now and always. **Amen.**

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 625 *J.S. Bach*