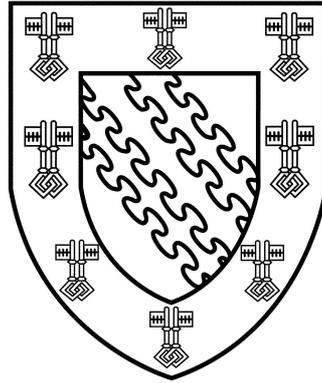


EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL



CHORAL EVENSONG

9 May 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, 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.

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN

Wild water of the mountain stream,
Tall grasses of the sweeping plain,
Oh raise now all your voices!
Sing, chorus at the break of day!
Roar, lion seeking for your prey!
Sing praises! Sing praises!
Allelujah, allelujah, allelujah.

Tall towering clouds of rain and ice,
Vast glowing clouds of outer space,
Fill the cosmos with your praises!
Shine, stars and burn your hearts away!
Roll, planets, weighty laws obey!
In the depth of ocean water:
Allelujah, allelujah, allelujah.

Slow folding mantle of the Earth,
Fountain of fire show your worth,
Raise the song of all creation!
Hardness of winter on the plain,
Freshness of spring renewed again:
For the joy that grows forever,
Allelujah, allelujah, allelujah.

All people of the human race,
See how to live the life of grace:
See the Saviour, Oh praise Him!
Follow the lowly path of love,
Lifting your hearts to God above,
Oh praise Him, oh praise Him!
Allelujah, allelujah, allelujah.

Words: A. Steane
Music: Laßt uns erfreuen

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 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

Tomkins

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. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands * sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise to be glorious. Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works * through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee. For all the world shall worship thee * sing of thee, and praise thy Name. O come hither, and behold the works of God * how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men. He turned the sea into dry land * so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof. He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people * and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves. O praise our God, ye people * and make the voice of his praise to be heard; Who holdeth our soul in life * and suffereth not our feet to slip. For thou, O God, hast proved us * thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried. Thou broughtest us into the snare * and laidest trouble upon our loins. Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads * we went through fire and water, and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place. I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings * and will pay thee my vows, which I promised with my lips, and spake with my mouth, when I was in trouble. I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams * I will offer bullocks and goats. O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God * and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul. I called unto him with my mouth * and gave him praises with my tongue. If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart * the Lord will not hear me. But God hath heard me * and considered the voice of my prayer. Praised be God who hath not cast out my prayer * nor turned his mercy from me.

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 34

And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest. And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount. And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone. And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood

with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance. And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

MAGNIFICAT

Gloucester Service *Howells*

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

John 15. 1 – 8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

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.

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.

¶ *All kneel or sit*

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

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, in whom we live, move and have our being, who does good unto all, making thy sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sending rain on the just and the unjust; favourably behold us thy people, who do call upon thy name, and send us thy blessing from heaven, in giving us fruitful seasons, and filling our hearts with food and gladness; that both our hearts and mouths may be continually filled with thy praises, giving thanks to thee in thy holy Church, 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.

The Choir sings:

All you heavens bless the Lord,

Surrexit Christus, alleluia!

Starts of the heavens, bless the Lord.

Cantate Domino, alleluia!

Sun and moon, bless the Lord.

And you, night and day, bless the Lord.

Frost and cold, bless the Lord.

Ice and snow, bless the Lord.

Fire and heat, bless the Lord.

And you, light and darkness, bless the Lord.

Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord.

Saints and the humble-hearted, bless the Lord.

Words: Benedicite

Music: Taizé Community

THE SERMON
The Rev'd Canon Dr Judith Maltby

THE ANTHEM

God be merciful to us, and bless us;
And cause his face to shine upon us;
That thy way may be known upon earth,
Thy saving health among all nations.
Let the people praise thee, O God;
O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:
For thou shalt judge the people righteously,
And govern the nations upon the earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God;
Then shall the earth yield her increase;
And God, even our own God, shall bless us.
God shall bless us;
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Words: Psalm 67

Music: C. Ives

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

Alleluya, alleluya!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim,
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield:
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen!
Shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluya, alleluya!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluya! to the Saviour
who has gained the victory;
Alleluya! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluya, alleluya!
to the Triune Majesty.

*Words: C. Wordsworth
Music: Lux eoi, A. Sullivan*

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

Jesu, meine Freude *Will Harmer*