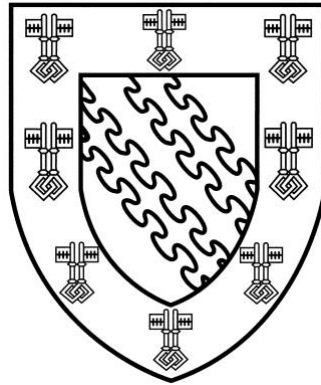


EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL



CHORAL EVENSONG Trinity Sunday

7 June 2020



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.

Like all services this Term, several different recordings make up the service. The first two hymns were recorded on Trinity Sunday 2019; the final hymn has been recorded in isolation for this service, as has the metrical psalm and the Magnificat. The Nunc Dimittis comes from the Choir's forthcoming CD 'and then the heaven espy', directed by James Short. The anthem is from the CD 'Salve Regina', directed by Stephen Wood. The first lesson is read by Jonathan Herring, Fellow in Law, and the second lesson by Marco Bodnar, one of our Junior Deans. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this service.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY
Canzona in G, *Tunder, 1614 – 1667*

HYMN



The God of Abraham praise
Who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days,
And God of love;
To him uplift your voice,
At whose supreme command
From earth we rise and seek the joys
At his right hand.

The goodly land we see,
With peace and plenty blessed;
A land of sacred liberty,
And endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
And oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow
With mercy crowned.

There dwells the Lord our king,
The Lord our righteousness,
Triumphant o'er the world and sin
The Prince of peace;
On Sion's sacred height
His kingdom still maintains,
And glorious with his saints in light
For ever reigns.

Before the great Three-One
They all exulting stand;
And tell the wonders he hath done,
Through all their land:
The listening spheres attend,
And swell the growing fame;
And sing, in songs which never end,
The wondrous name.

The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing,
And Holy, holy, holy! cry,
Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same,
And evermore shall be:
Eternal Father—great I AM,
We worship thee!

The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high;
Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
They ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God, and mine!
(I join the heav'nly lays)
All might and majesty are thine,
And endless praise.

*Words: T. Olivers, 1725 – 99, based on the Yigdal
Music: Leoni, Hebrew melody, noted by T. Olivers*

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

K.Leighton, 1929 – 88

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 Choir sings Psalm 117, with verse two in canon.

From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies Lord;
Eternal truth attends thy Word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures, here below.
Praise him, above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Words: Psalm 117, set by I. Watts, 1674 - 1748

Music: Tallis' Canon, T. Tallis 1505 - 85

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 6

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service in B flat, C.V. Stanford, 1852 – 1924

Recorded in isolation

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

THE SECOND LESSON

John 16

Jesus said: I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

NUNC DIMITTIS

C. Tye c1505 - 73

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

**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

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; we beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith and evermore defend us from all adversities who livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

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.

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.

Amen.

THE ANTHEM

Hail! gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
Who is th'immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of Holies--Jesus Christ our Lord!

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest;
The lights of evening round us shine;
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine!

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own. Amen.

Words: C3rd Greek, trans. J. Keble, 1792 – 1866

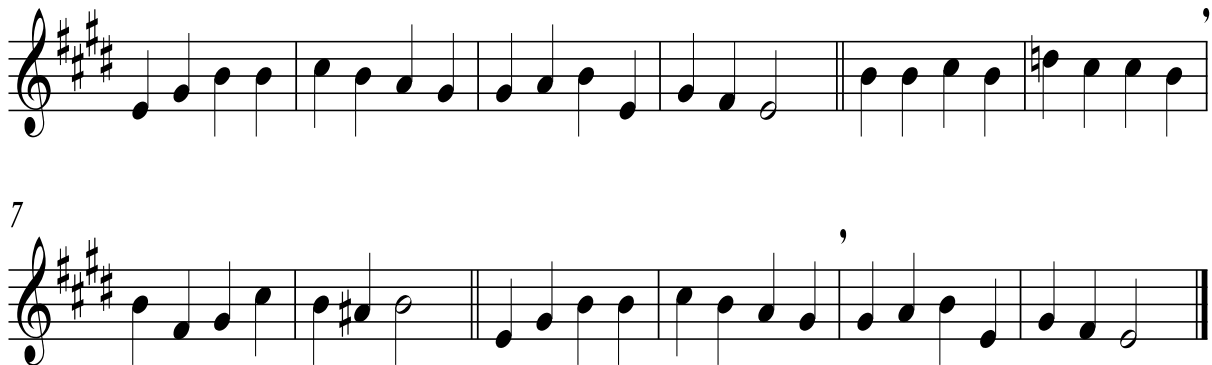
Music: C. Wood, 1866 – 1926

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



Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,

Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Self-denying, death defying,
Thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy:
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

Words: J. Edmeston, 1791 - 1867

Music: Mannheim, from Filitz's Choralbuch, 1847,

Recorded in Isolation

THE BLESSING

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith, and hope, and love; defend you on every side, and guide you into truth and peace. 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.
From this time forth for evermore. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Allegro (Sonata 1), *Mendelssohn 1809 – 47*

Next Sunday's service, the last for this term, is the Commemoration of Benefactors.

If you'd like to record 'I was glad' at home, please see below:

<https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/about/chapel/commemoration-of-benefactors-i-was-glad-recording>

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