



CIVIC SERVICE

welcoming the Lord Mayor and the Freemen of Oxford

Sunday 25th April 2021, 10:30am

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

FROM earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world. By the fourth century, if not earlier, morning and evening had emerged as pre-eminent hours for the offering of this sacrifice of praise. They have remained so ever since, especially on Sundays when the Church commemorates both the first day of creation and the day of Christ's resurrection.

The services of Morning and Evening Prayer help Christians of our own day take part in this privilege and duty which belongs to all God's people. It is the former service which we use this morning.

The service brings together Scripture, music and the prayers of the people. In the **psalms**, with their reflections on the past and urgent expressions of personal and corporate anxiety or delight, we find ourselves in relationship with God through the words of our forebears. We reply to each of our Scripture readings with a **song (or canticle)**, the *Te Deum laudamus* (an Early Christian hymn of praise) and the *Jubilate Deo* (Psalm 100), both telling the story of God's dealings with his people. The **versicles and responses** function as an exchange in which the priest moves the people to reply in praise and petition. In the **prayers of intercession**, we bring before God the needs of the world and all people. The whole service is a dialogue between God and his people, and between the present and the tradition which continues to form us.

The tradition represented in this service is historic; yet here we find strong expressions of the manifold and basic feelings about ourselves and God which we share with those whose faith and liturgy we inherit. It is the shape of this worship which gives us the framework within which our regrets, desires, hopes and gratitude may find space for expression. It is perhaps important that we should be sufficiently patient and relaxed to allow such a form of worship, fashioned over centuries, to speak, while permitting our own thoughts and feelings to become closer to us than life outside permits.

Some of this service is sung by the choir. This allows the congregation to listen with greater care as these words are interpreted by others according to the tempi and textures of music. By its power to bring us together, whether as performers or listeners, music takes us to the threshold of the life for which we hope. So we are enabled to perform a threefold task: first, patient attention, allowing ourselves the time to listen to these words of narrative and prayer; second, prayer for ourselves and the world; and finally, praise and thanksgiving to almighty God.

THE FREEMEN OF OXFORD

THE Freemen of Oxford were founded in Saxon times and mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086. At that time, only freemen could vote and trade in Oxford. They were also the only people who could be elected to the town council until 1835. Freemen were men of great power and had owned, grazed and maintained Port Meadow, an ancient area of land given to them by Alfred the Great in return for helping to defend the kingdom against the marauding Danes. Today, the Freemen of Oxford have the right to graze up to 700 animals, and to fish from the banks of the Meadow.

Since they were founded, the Freemen of Oxford have promoted and protected the role of apprenticeships in Oxford. As an historic craft guild organisation that has shaped the city for at least 1100 years, they recognise the contribution that people make to this city to keep it a flourishing place to live, work and play. The annual Freemen Apprentice Awards presents an award to the most outstanding apprentice of each year.

Today we welcome the Lord Mayor of Oxford, Councillor Mark Lygo, and the Chairman of the Freemen of Oxford, Howard Crapper.

The service is sung by the Choir of St Michael at the North Gate, conducted by Tom Hammond-Davies, Director of Music.

The organ is played by Dónal McCann, organist at St Michael at the North Gate.

The service is led by The Reverend Anthony Buckley, Vicar at St Michael at the North Gate and City Rector.

Morning Prayer

from 'The Book of Common Prayer' (1662)

The City Rector welcomes us

The Choir will sing our opening hymn

BE thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Slane

Irish, 8th century tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
versified, Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

All sit or kneel

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 we 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.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

All remain kneeling

PRECES & RESPONSES

O LORD, open thou our lips:
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

All stand

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 119.9-16

WHEREWITHAL shall a young man cleanse his way : even by ruling himself after thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee : O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.

Thy words have I hid within my heart : that I should not sin against thee.

Blessed art thou, O Lord : O teach me thy statutes.

With my lips have I been telling : of all the judgements of thy mouth.

I have had as great delight in the way of thy testimonies : as in all manner of riches.

I will talk of thy commandments : and have respect unto thy ways.

My delight shall be in thy statutes : and I will not forget thy word.

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.

All sit

THE FIRST LESSON

1 St. Peter 2.11-17

Read by Mr Howard Crapper, Chairman of the Freemen of Oxford.

DEARLY beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him, for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness; but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

J S Bach, contrafact by T Hammond-Davies

WE praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens and all the Powers therein.
To thee Cherubin, and Seraphin: continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty: of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles: praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets: praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs: praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world: doth acknowledge thee;
The Father: of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true: and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor
the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death: thou didst open
the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the Glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou hast redeemed
with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage.
Govern them: and lift them up for ever.
Day by day: we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name: ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us: have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confound

THE SECOND LESSON

St. John 16.16-22

Read by Councillor Mark Lygo, Lord Mayor of the City of Oxford

JESUS said to his disciples, A little while and ye shall not see me; and again a little while and ye shall see me; because I go to the Father. Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while and ye shall not see me; and again a little while and ye shall see me; and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them,

Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while and ye shall not see me; and again a little while and ye shall see me? Verily, verily I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in travail, hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.'

JUBILATE DEO (PSALM 100)

Heinrich Schütz

O be joyful in the Lord ' all ye lands : serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his ' presence ' with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord ' he is God : it is he that hath made us, and
not we ourselves, we are his ' people, and the ' sheep of his
' pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his ' courts
with ' praise : be thankful unto him and ' speak good ' of his '
Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is ' ever'lasting : and his truth
endureth from gene'ration to ' gene'ration.

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: **I** 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 catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

All remain standing

PRAYERS

THE Lord be with you.
I And with thy spirit.

All sit or kneel

Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy holy spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

ALMIGHTY God, who shewest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All say together

THE COLLECT FOR GRACE

O LORD, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Heinrich Schütz, Ich bin ein rechter Weinstock

THE SERMON

The City Rector, The Reverend Anthony Buckley

All sit or kneel for our prayers of intercession.

All stand for the Blessing and The National Anthem



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