A warm welcome to our service this week.
Thank you for joining us from wherever you may be.

The full text of the service is found in this pdf that you have downloaded from our Online Evensong page. An audio-recording of the full service is on the page where you found the link to this text.

Our preacher this week is the Revd Canon Dr Elizabeth Thomson, who is Canon Missioner and Acting Dean of Derby Cathedral, and an old member of the College.
Good evening, and welcome to this online Evensong from University College, Oxford.

Even if we listen by ourselves, let us remember that we join with others whom we may not see, for we know that they are listening too.

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God’s love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all people such things as their well-being doth require.
Therefore let us continue in a moment of shared silence, and remember God’s presence with us now.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

Our Father, who 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 those 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.

VERSICLES AND 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.

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 23

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;  
    he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
    the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
    and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
    e’en for His own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,  
    yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me, and thy rod  
    and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
    in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
    and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
    shall surely follow me,  
and in God’s house forevermore  
    my dwelling-place shall be.

Music: ‘Crimond’, melody by Jessie Irvine (1836-87)  
Text: Scottish Psalter, 1650
But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred and fifty days the waters had abated; and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters
had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, ‘Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.’ So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

MAGNIFICAT
The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Luke 1.46-55

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:
al 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, for ever.

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
From the New Testament
John 14.1-14

Jesus said, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How
can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**NUNC DIMITTIS**  
The Song of Simeon  
Luke 2.29-32

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 SUNG PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*

*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 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
‘Beati quorum via’

Beati quorum via integra est,
Qui ambulant in lege Domini.

_Blessed are the undefiled in the way,_
_who walk in the law of the Lord._

Words: Psalm 119, v1
Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

THE SERMON
Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Elizabeth Thomson

HYMN
‘This joyful Eastertide’

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow:

_Refrain:_ Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne’er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now has Christ arisen,
 arisen, arisen, arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber:
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number:

Death’s flood has lost its chill
since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver:

Music: Melody from David’s Psalmen Amsterdam 1685
Text: G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

THE INTERCESSIONS

As we continue together, let us pray

God of compassion,
in this time of pandemic,
disruption and uncertainty,
we pray for your world, and for all people;

Give courage and understanding
to those in positions of authority and influence,
that they may speak and act
in ways that are wise and fair,
and that they may work for the common good.

Strengthen and sustain
all those who are ill, afraid or in isolation,
and comfort and uphold all those who mourn.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
In their grief be present with them.

Give protection and resilience,  
compassion and skill,  
and the equipment that they need,  
to all who care for the sick and for the dying  
and all who perform other vital roles,  
and bring them safely home each day.

Give, wisdom and illumination,  
and the resources and data that they need  
to researchers and clinicians  
searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work  
a vaccine may be found,  
that this virus may be contained,  
and that we may emerge from lockdown  
able and resolved  
to work for a fairer and better world;

through him who suffered on the cross,  
and whom you raised  
to reign with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Two prayers for trust

Almighty God,  
who in thy wisdom hast so ordered our earthly life  
that we needs must walk by faith and not by sight;  
grant us such faith in thee that,  
amidst all things that pass our understanding,  
we may believe in thy loving care,  
and ever be strengthened by the assurance  
that underneath are thy everlasting arms;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Eternal God and Father,
help us to entrust the past to your mercy,
the present to your love,
and the future to your wisdom,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is the same yesterday,
and today, and for ever. Amen.

*A prayer of John Chrysostom:*

Almighty God,
who hast given us grace at this time with one accord
to make our common supplications unto thee;
and dost promise that when two or three
are gathered together in thy name
thou wilt grant their requests:
Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants,
as may be most expedient for them;
granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth,
and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

**BLESSING**

The God of Peace
Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ
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 God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
THANKS

*Our thanks go to:*

All who support the life of the College Chapel
The Chapel Choir, Organ Scholars, Choral Scholars and Choral Bursars, and their teachers
Justin Bowyer, College Digital Communications Manager, for technical advice and support, and for editing and posting the recording, and creating its webpage
Alexander Newton and Harry Stuart, for editing this recording

*And to those who sang, played or read the various parts of our service:*

Versicles and Responses (Giles Underwood and Carys Lane)
Psalm 23 (Ben Nicholas, organ, and Choir)
First Lesson (Robin Darwall-Smith)
Magnificat (Henry Wendorf)
Second Lesson (Holly Johnston)
Nunc Dimittis (Amaryllis Hill)
The Sung Prayers (Giles Underwood and Carys Lane)
The Anthem (Choir, from their 2018 CD, *Redeeming Cross*)
Hymn – This Joyful Eastertide (Ben Nicholas, organ, and Choir)

Particular thanks go to our guest preacher, the Revd Canon Dr Elizabeth Thomson, who is Canon Missioner and Acting Dean of Derby Cathedral. Elizabeth is an old member of the College, who came to Univ to study English as an undergraduate, and stayed on for her DPhil. Before going to Derby she served as a team vicar in Witney, and a curate in Somerset; originally from Edinburgh, she is gradually working her way north. Prior to her ordination, Elizabeth taught English in schools in Edinburgh and Wells. She has walked to Santiago de Compostela twice and is always wondering where to walk next.

Andrew Gregory, Chaplain
Giles Underwood, Director of Music
8 May 2020