

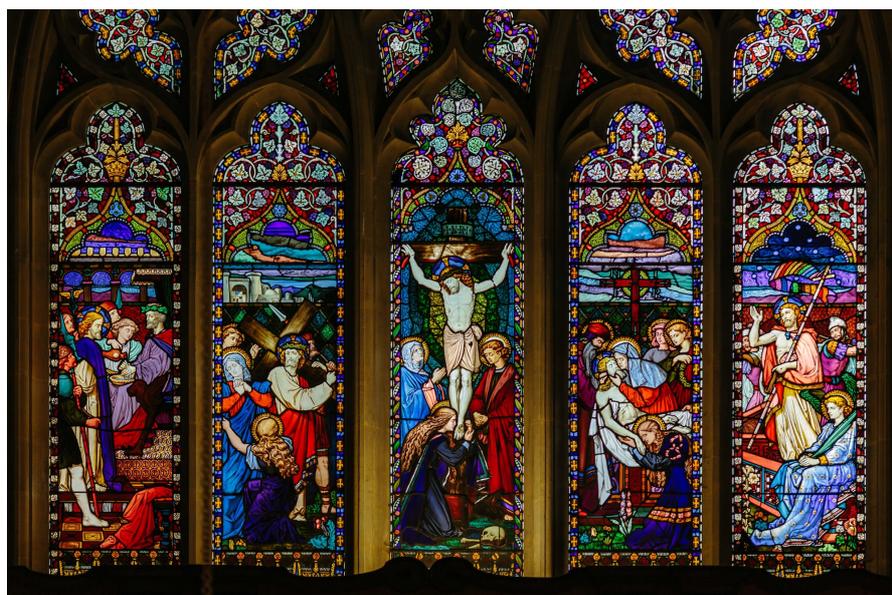


**Sunday 24 May 2020**  
**Online Evensong from University College, Oxford**

*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 Chaplain.



## INTROIT

The eternal gates lift up their heads, the doors are opened wide;  
The King of Glory is gone up unto his Father's side.  
And ever on our earthly path a gleam of glory lies;  
A light still breaks behind the cloud that veils thee from our eyes.

Text and Music: Christopher Tye (1505-1572), from: 'The Acts of the Apostles'  
(1553)

## WELCOME



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

**THE FIRST LESSON**  
**From the Old Testament**  
**Ezekiel 36.24-28**



Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God:

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

**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:  
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, 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**  
**Acts 1.1-14**



In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**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 'Cantate Domino'

Cantate Domino canticum novum,  
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.  
Lætetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum,  
et filii Sion exultent in rege suo.

*O sing unto the Lord a new song  
let the congregation of saints praise him.  
Let Israel rejoice in him that made him  
and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.*

Text: Psalm 149.1-2 (Vulgate)  
Music: Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni (1657 -1743)

**THE SERMON**  
**Preacher: The Chaplain**



**HYMN**  
**'Jesus Christ is risen today'**

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains that he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Text: traditional English, based on a Latin hymn of the fourteenth century  
Music: 'Easter Hymn', adapted from a melody in *Lyra Davidica* (1705)

## 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 local, national and international leaders,  
and all those in positions of authority and influence,  
that they may speak, lead 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,  
or those whose livelihoods and income are under threat,  
and comfort and uphold all those who mourn.

We thank you for all who care  
for the sick and for the dying  
and for all who perform other vital roles;  
we pray that they may have the resources that they need  
and that they may return safely home each day.

Give wisdom and illumination,

to those working to develop a vaccine,  
that this virus may be contained;  
and give vision and inspiration  
to those who shape public life and civil society,  
and influence political and economic thought,  
that we may emerge from lockdown  
able and resolved  
to work for a fairer and better world.

Let us pray also for all who teach and all who learn,  
and for all those preparing for and taking exams:  
for clarity of mind,  
for stamina and strength,  
and for hope for the future.

And let us pray for the College,  
that love of neighbour and all good learning  
may here for ever flourish;  
and that all its members,  
old, current and future,  
may build here relationships that will sustain them,  
and may be educated for lives of service to others and to you.

All this we ask through him who suffered on the cross,  
and whom you raised  
to reign with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

*The Collect for Ascension Day, from the Book of Common Prayer*

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God,  
that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son  
our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens;  
so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend,  
and with him continually dwell,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts  
and bring you to reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**VOLUNTARY**

**J. S. Bach (1685-1750), Christ ist erstanden, BWV 627**



## 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:*

The Introit (Choir)  
Versicles and Responses (Giles Underwood and Carys Lane)  
Psalm 23 (Ben Nicholas, organ, and Choir)  
First Lesson (Lady Crewe)  
Magnificat (Henry Wendorf)  
Second Lesson (Melvin Obadha)  
Nunc Dimittis (Amaryllis Hill)  
The Sung Prayers (Giles Underwood and Carys Lane)  
The Anthem (Choir)  
Preacher (Chaplain)  
Hymn (Ben Nicholas, organ, and Choir)  
Voluntary (Elsa Shah, organ)

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