

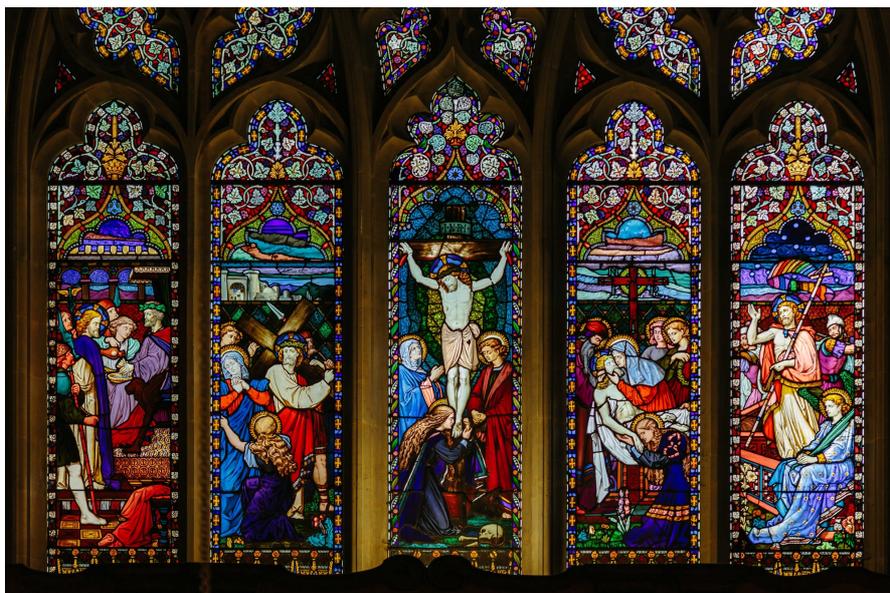


Sunday 3 May 2020
Online Evensong from University College, Oxford

*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 Revd Canon Dr Josephine Houghton, who is Precentor at Birmingham Cathedral.



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
Genesis 7



Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.

The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

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 2.37-47



Now when the people in Jerusalem heard what Peter said, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Many were baptized and added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 'Drop, Drop Slow Tears'

Drop, drop, slow tears,
and bathe those beauteous feet,
which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance
sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye
see sin, but through my tears.

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625), First Strain of *Song 46*

Text: Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

THE SERMON

Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Josephine Houghton

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;
but now has Christ 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**

A prayer of St Anselm

O merciful God,
fill our hearts, we pray,
with the graces of thy Holy Spirit;
with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness,
goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.
Teach us to love those who hate us;
to pray for those who spitefully use us;
that we may be the children of thy love, our Father,
who makes the sun to rise on the evil and the good,
and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
In adversity grant us grace to be patient;
in prosperity keep us humble;
may we guard the door of our lips;
may we lightly esteem the pleasures of this world,
and thirst after heavenly things;
through 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.**

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)

First Lesson (Lucy McEvoy)
Magnificat (Henry Wendorf)
Second Lesson (Zach Burns)
Nunc Dimittis (Conor McGlone)
The Sung Prayers (Giles Underwood and Carys Lane)
The Anthem (Choir)
Hymn – This Joyful Eastertide (Ben Nicholas, organ, and Choir)

Particular thanks go to our guest preacher, the Revd Canon Dr Josephine Houghton, who was installed as Canon Precentor of Birmingham Cathedral in 2019. Prior to that, Josephine served as a parish priest and as Interim Chaplain to the Bishop of Birmingham and Bishop's Archivist. Her doctoral research was in the reception of the works of Guillaume de Deguileville in late medieval England.

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