Sunday 16 May 2021
Choral Evensong

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 file 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 Georgina Watmore (Univ, 1981).

More information about the preacher, and details of our music this evening, are at the end of this order of service. All services are recorded one week in advance.
INTROIT
‘The eternal gates’

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.

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.
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God:

O God, our Father,
we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed:
we have not loved thee with all our heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
Have mercy upon us, we beseech thee;
cleanse us from our sins;
and help us to overcome our faults;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord
grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,

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.
Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered *
let them also that hate him flee before him.
Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away *
and like as wax melteth at the fire,
so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.
But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God *
let them also be merry and joyful.
O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name *
magnify him that rideth upon the heavens, as it were upon an horse; praise him in his Name JAH, and rejoice before him.
He is a Father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows *
even God in his holy habitation.
He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house, and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity *
but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.
O God, when thou wentest forth before the people *
when thou wentest through the wilderness,
The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the presence of God *
even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel.
Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance *
and refreshedst it when it was weary.
Thy congregation shall dwell therein *
for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness prepared for the poor.

Sing unto God, O ye kingdoms of the earth *
O sing praises unto the Lord;
Who sitteth in the heavens over all from the beginning *
lo, he doth send out his voice, yea, and that a mighty voice.
Ascribe ye the power to God over Israel *
his worship, and strength is in the clouds.
O God, wonderful art thou in thy holy places *
even the God of Israel; he will give strength and power unto his people;
blessed be God.

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.
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 1.1-11

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.’

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 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 Spirit,
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 Spirit;
The holy Catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
   And the Life everlasting. Amen.
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 THE DAY

O God the King of glory,
Who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven:
we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,
but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us
and exalt us unto the place
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. 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
‘God is gone up’

God is gone up with a triumphant shout!
The Lord with sounding trumpets’ melodies:
Sing praise, sing praises out
Unto our King, sing praise seraphic-wise!
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing,
And let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven’s sparkling courtiers fly,
in flakes of glory down him to attend,
And hear heart-cramping notes of melody
Surround his chariot as it did ascend;
Mixing their music, making ev’ry string
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

God is gone up with a triumphant shout!
The Lord with sounding trumpets’ melodies:
Sing praise, sing praises out
Unto our King, sing praise seraphic-wise!
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing,
And let the King of Glory enter in.

THE SERMON
The Revd Georgina Watmore
HYMN
‘Rejoice, the Lord is King’

REJOICE, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:
\textit{Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;}
\textit{Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.}

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above:
\textit{Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;}
\textit{Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.}

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o’er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
\textit{Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;}
\textit{Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.}

He sits at God’s right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:
\textit{Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;}
\textit{Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.}

INTERCESSIONS

\textit{As we continue together, let us pray ...}
HYMN

‘Eternal Monarch, King most high’

Eternal Monarch, King most high,
Whose blood hath brought redemption nigh,
By whom the death of Death was wrought
And conquering grace’s battle fought:

Ascending to the throne of might,
And seated at the Father’s right,
All power in heaven is Jesu’s own,
That here his manhood had not known.

Yea, angels tremble when they see
How changed is our humanity;
That flesh hath purged what flesh had stained,
And God, the flesh of God, hath reigned.

Be thou our joy and strong defence,
Who art our future recompense:
So shall the light that springs from thee
Be ours through all eternity.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to thee let earth accord,
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One. Amen.
BLESSING

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Our preacher this evening is the Revd Georgina Watmore (Univ, 1981)

Georgina Watmore matriculated in 1981, the third year that Univ accepted
women students. She read Jurisprudence before working in investment banking in the
City and later trained as an Anglican priest. She has recently taken early retirement from
her last parish, a Georgian town in Cheshire, in which she had oversight of three
churches, four listed buildings and four schools. Georgina is the mother of four grown
sons.

The music in the service is as follows:

Introit: ‘The eternal gates’
Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)
Music: Christopher Tye (1505-72)
A 19th century re-setting of an Ascensiontide hymn to a Tye tune.

Preces and Responses: Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Canticles: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, Watson in E
Anthem: ‘God is gone up’

Words: Edward Taylor (1646?-1729), from Sacramental Meditations
Music: Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Hymns:

‘Rejoice, the Lord is King’
Words: Charles Wesley, (1707-88)
Music: G. F. Handel, 1685-1759

‘Eternal Monarch, King most high’
Translation: J. M. Neale, 1818-66
Music: Percy Buck, 1871-1947