



**Sunday 9 May 2021
Choral Evensong**

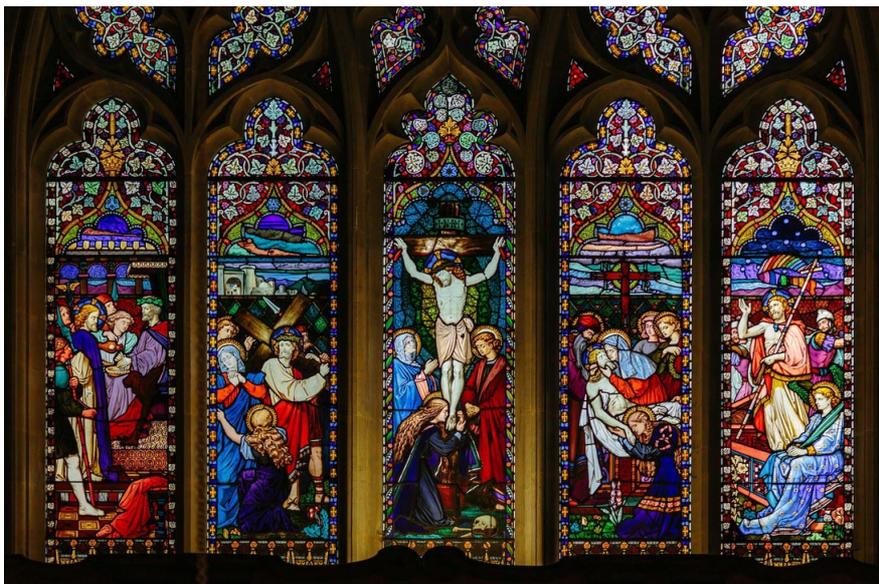
Online Evensong from University College, Oxford

***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 Dr Nick Hallam (Univ, 1967).

More information about the preacher, and details of our music this evening, are at the end of this order of service.



WORDS OF WELCOME



INTROIT 'Lead me, Lord'

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

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,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 1

Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor stood in the way of sinners *

and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord *
and in his law will he exercise himself day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the water-side *
that will bring forth his fruit in due season.

His leaf also shall not wither *
and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.

As for the ungodly, it is not so with them *
but they are like the chaff,
which the wind scattereth away from the face of the earth.

Therefore the ungodly shall not be able to stand in the judgement *
neither the sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

But the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous *
and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

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 FIRST LESSON From the Old Testament Isaiah 55.1-11



Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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 10.34-48



Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

God our redeemer,
Who hast delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of thy Son:
grant, that as by his death he hath recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
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.**

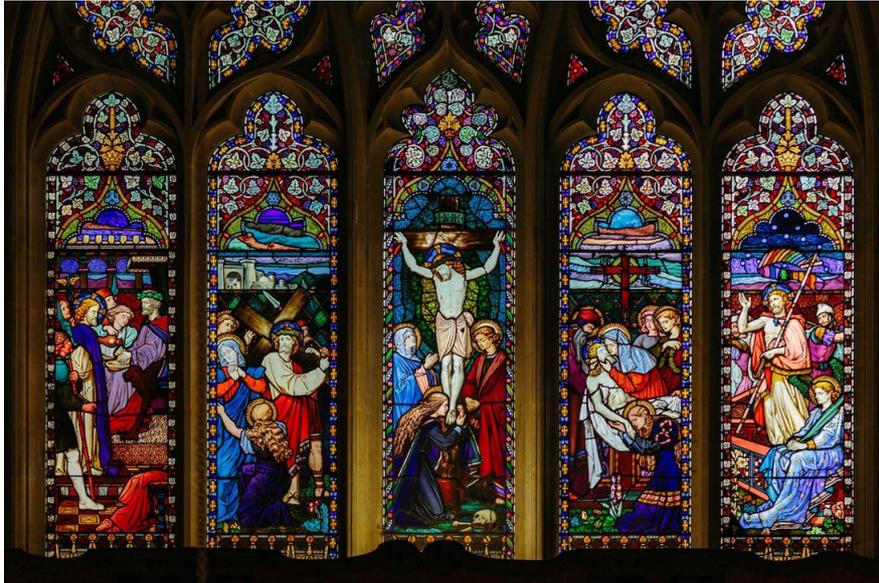
THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

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
'Welcome sweet and sacred feast'

Welcome sweet and sacred feast;
Welcome life! Welcome life!
Dead I was, and deep in trouble;
But grace and blessings came with thee so rife,
That they have quickened even dry stubble.
Thus souls their bodies animate,
And thus, at first, when things were rude,
Dark, void, and crude
They, by thy word, their beauty had, and date;
All were by thee, and still must be;
Nothing that is, or lives,
But hath his quicknings, and reprieves
As thy hand opes, or shuts:
Healings and cuts,
Darkness and daylight, life and death
Are but mere leaves turn'd by thy breath.
But that great darkness at thy death
When the veil broke with thy last breath,
Did make us see
The way to thee.
Was't not enough that thou hadst paid the price
And given us eyes
When we had none but thou must also take
Us by the hand
And keep us still awake,
When we would sleep,
Or from thee creep,
Who without thee cannot stand?
Was't not enough to lose thy breath
And blood by an accursed death,
But thou must also leave
To us that did bereave
Thee of them both, these seals the means
That should both cleanse and keep us so,
Who wrought thy woe?
O rose of Sharon!
O the lily of the valley!
How art thou now, thy flock to keep
Become both food and shepherd to thy sheep.

THE SERMON
Preacher: The Revd Dr Nick Hallam



HYMN
'Come down, O Love divine'

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

INTERCESSIONS

As we continue together, let us pray ...



HYMN

'The Church's one foundation'

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy Bride,
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.

'Mid toil, and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious

Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.

BLESSING

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
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.

VOLUNTARY

J. S. Bach, Pièce d'orgue, BWV152



Our preacher this evening is the Revd Dr Nick Hallam (Univ, 1967).

Nick Hallam read Biochemistry at Univ and is an Anglican priest and hospital doctor (now very part time) who lives in Cumbria. After Univ he enjoyed a year in South India on VSO when a special memory was travelling 3rd class by rail on the luggage rack from Chennai to Kolkata. He and his wife Joyce have recently invested in ebikes which make the Lake District hills more manageable. They have hens and three granddaughters.

The music in the service is as follows:

Introit: 'Lead me Lord'

Words: Psalm 5.8 & 4.9

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76)

Preces and Responses: Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Canticles: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E, Herbert Murrill (1909-1952)

Anthem: 'Welcome Sweet and Sacred Feast'

Words: Henry Vaughan (1621-1695)

Music: Gerald Finzi (1901-56)

Hymns:

'Come down o Love Divine'

Words: Bianco da Siena, (d. 1434), translated by R. F. Littledale, (1833-90)

Music: R. Vaughan Williams, (1872-1958)

'The Church's one foundation'

Words: Samuel Stone (1839-1900)

Music: Aurelia, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76)

Voluntary:

J. S. Bach (1685-1750), Pièce d'orgue, BWV152