Sunday 6 June 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 Janet Williams (Univ 1979).

More information about the preacher, and details of our music this evening, are at the end of this order of service.
INTROIT
‘Rise up, my love’

Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear upon the earth.
The time of singing of birds is come.
Arise my love, my fair one, and come away.

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.
PSALM 130

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord *
Lord, hear my voice.
O let thine ears consider well *
the voice of my complaint.
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss *
O Lord, who may abide it?
For there is mercy with thee *
therefore shalt thou be feared.
I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him *
in his word is my trust.
My soul fleeth unto the Lord *
before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.
O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy *
and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem Israel *
from all his sins.

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.
I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.  
He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make  
the Lord their trust,  
who do not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after false gods.  
You have multiplied, O Lord my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;  
none can compare with you.  
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt-offering and sin-offering  
you have not required.  
Then I said, ‘Here I am;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.  
I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart.’
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 crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his companions could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.’ And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

‘Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’— for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’
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 strength of all them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace that, in keeping of thy commandments, we may please thee, both in will and deed; 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
‘Festival Te Deum’

We praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud : the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin : continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty : of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles : praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs : praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge thee;
The Father : of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true : and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man : thou didst not abhor the Virgin’s womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death :
    thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants :
    whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints : in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people : and bless thine heritage.
Govern them : and lift them up for ever.
Day by day : we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name : ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us : as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let me never be confounded.
THE SERMON
Preacher: The Revd Dr Janet Williams

HYMN
‘Father, hear the prayer we offer’

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

INTERCESSIONS

As we continue together, let us pray ...
HYMN
‘Hail to the Lord’s Anointed’

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed!
Great David’s greater Son;
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.
Kings shall fall down before him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing;  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.

O’er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest:  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever;  
That name to us is Love.

**BLESSING**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love 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 Dr Janet Williams (Univ, 1979).

Janet Williams matriculated in 1979, as one of the first cohort of women students at Univ; she read Classics, followed by a Masters in Patristic Theology. She is currently Vice-Principal of St Hild College in Mirfield. Her research interests are in Christian and Buddhist spiritual traditions, and her most recent publication is *Seeking the God Beyond: A Beginner's Guide to Christian Apophatic Spirituality* (SCM, 2018).

The music in the service is as follows:

**Introit:** 'Rise up, my love'
Words: Song of Solomon
Music: Healey Willan (1880-1968)

**Preces and Responses:** Philip Radcliffe (1905-86)

**Canticles:** Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991), Windsor Service

**Anthem:** 'Festival Te Deum'
Words: Book of Common Prayer and Psalm texts
Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

**Hymns:**
'Father hear the prayer we offer'
Words: Maria Willis (1824-1908)
Music: 'Sussex', an English traditional melody adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

'Hail to the Lord’s anointed'
Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)