



SIXTH SUNDAY

AFTER

TRINITY

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

SERMON IN MUSIC

11TH JULY 2021, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**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.**

Tune: Sussex, English Trad. arr. R Vaughan Williams 1872–1958
Words: L Willis 1824–1908

Welcome

Minister 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 men
such things as their well being doth require.
Wherefore let us kneel now
and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Confession

All **Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways
like lost sheep,
we have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things
which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done,
and there is no health in us:
but thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
spare thou them, O God,
which confess their faults,
restore thou them that are penitent,
according to thy promises
declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord:
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly,
righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.**

The Minister delivers the Absolution

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.

All **Amen.**

Preces

Richard Shephard

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips,
Choir *and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

Minister O God, make speed to save us,
Choir *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

Minister Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir *as it was in the beginning, is now,
 and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.*

Minister Praise ye the Lord.
Choir *The Lord's name be praised.*

Psalm 66: 1-11

Choir *1 O be joyful in God, all ye lands :
 sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise
 to be glorious.*

*2 Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works :
 through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies
 be found liars unto thee.*

*3 For all the world shall worship thee :
 sing of thee, and praise thy Name.*

*4 O come hither, and behold the works of God :
how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.*

*5 He turned the sea into dry land :
so that they went through the water on foot; there did we
rejoice thereof.*

*6 He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the
people :
and such as will not believe shall not be able to
exalt themselves.*

*7 O praise our God, ye people :
and make the voice of his praise to be heard;*

*8 Who holdeth our soul in life :
and suffereth not our feet to slip.*

*9 For thou, O God, hast proved us :
thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.*

*10 Thou broughtest us into the snare :
and laidest trouble upon our loins.*

*11 Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads :
we went through fire and water, and thou broughtest us
out into a wealthy place.*

*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.*

Chant: James Turle 1802-82

Old Testament Lesson

Job 4: 1, 5: 6-27

read by Graham Hill

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered Job and said, Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number: Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields: To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety. He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong. They meet with darkness in the day time, and grope in the noonday as in the night. But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty. So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword. Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh. At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin. Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth. Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season. Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know thou it for thy good.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

Evening Service in B minor – Thomas Tertius Noble

Choir *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 showed 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.*

New Testament Lesson

Romans 15: 14-29

read by Angelynn Hinson

And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind,

because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand. For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you; Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company. But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain. And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

All This is the word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B minor – Thomas Tertius Noble

Choir *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.*

Apostles' Creed

All **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 Ghost,
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 Ghost;
the holy Catholic Church;
the Communion of Saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting.
Amen.**

Responses

Richard Shephard

Minister The Lord be with you,
Choir *and with thy spirit.*

Minister Let us pray.

Choir *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.*

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us,
Choir *and grant us thy salvation.*

Minister O Lord, save the Queen,
Choir *and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Minister Endue thy Ministers with righteousness,
Choir *and make thy chosen people joyful.*

Minister O Lord, save thy people,
Choir *and bless thine inheritance.*

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord,
Choir *because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.*

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us,
Choir *and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

Collects

The first, for the day

Minister O God,
*who hast prepared for them that love thee
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward thee
that we, loving thee in all things and above all things,
may obtain thy promises
which exceed all that we can desire;
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.*

Choir *Amen.*

The second, for Peace

Minister 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.

Choir *Amen.*

The third, for Aid against all Perils

Minister 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.

Choir *Amen.*

Sermon in Music

i) *Lift up your heads* – George Frederick Handel

ii) *Motet 'Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf'* –

Johann Sebastian Bach

(Please see notes on page 14)

Prayers of Intercession

The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

These responses may be used

All Lord, in thy mercy
 hear our prayer.

All Merciful Father,
 accept these prayers
 for the sake of thy Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ.
 Amen.

Hymn

**Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
we stand to bless thee ere our worship cease;
then, lowly kneeling, wait thy word of peace.**

**Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end, the day:
guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.**

**Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
turn thou for us its darkness into light;
from harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.**

**Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.**

Tune: Ellers by E Hopkins 1818-1901
Words: J Ellerton 1826-93

Blessing

Minister The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds
 in the knowledge and love of God,
 and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be amongst you and remain with you always.

Choir *Amen.*

Organ Voluntary

Praeludium in E – Vincent Lübeck

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Sermon in Music

- i) *Lift up your heads* – George Frederick Handel 1685-1759
- ii) Motet '*Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*' BWV 226 – Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

The words for Handel's great oratorio *Messiah*, first performed in Dublin in 1742, were selected by Charles Jennens, an English aristocrat who collaborated with Handel on several other occasions. They are drawn from a wide variety of Biblical sources, with the book of Isaiah providing the greatest number of quotes, closely followed by verses from the Psalms in the translation used in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. *Lift up your heads* is taken from the second of the three parts of the oratorio and is a setting of verses 7-10 of Psalm 24, one of the psalms set for this Sunday. It begins with passages for reduced voices, where a trio of upper voices is answered by the lower parts, and concludes with an extended setting of the closing words (He is the King of Glory) for four-part choir.

Bach became Kantor (Director of Music) at St Thomas's church, Leipzig in 1723 and concentrated his compositional efforts during his first few years in the post on providing a cantata for every Sunday of the church's year. These cantatas were for voices (principally soloists) and instrumentalists and formed the centrepiece of the main morning service – their texts were usually also specially written. Other music in the service consisted of motets, often in Latin and usually with a Biblical text, nearly always taken from a repertoire already existing before Bach's time. However, Bach did compose six German motets for special occasions (it seems likely that he only produced them when he could be sure that his best singers were available), and the second item in this evening's Sermon in Music, written for the funeral of J H Ernesti, Rektor (Headmaster) of the St Thomas's choir school in 1729 is one such piece.

Despite the solemnity of the occasion, the nature of the music is confident and cheerful – the text (Romans 8: v 26 & 27) speaks of the Holy Spirit as help and Comforter, and is often sung on Whitsunday. Verse 26 is set for eight voices (two antiphonal four-part choirs, which was a traditional central German compositional style) in two contrasting sections with the lively runs of the opening giving way to a more chromatic style for the ‘inexpressible sighs.’ Verse 27 reverts to a simpler fugal style in four parts and the motet concludes with a traditional Lutheran chorale or hymn, which is a prayer to God for us to remain steadfast in his service.

Lift up your heads

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors :
and the King of glory shall come in.*

*Who is the King of glory? :
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors :
and the King of glory shall come in.*

*Who is the King of glory? :
The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.*

Der Geist hilft unsrer Schwachheit auf

Der Geist hilft unsrer Schwachheit auf, denn, wir wissen nicht was wir beten sollen, wie sichs gebühret; sondern der Geist selbst vertritt uns aufs beste mit unaussprechlichem Seufzen. Der aber die Herzen forschet, der weiß, was des Geistes Sinn sei; denn er vertritt die Heiligen nach dem, das Gott gefället.

*Du heilige Brunst, süßer Trost
nun hilf uns, fröhlich und getrost
in deinem Dienst beständig bleiben,
die Trübsal uns nicht abtreiben.
O Herr, durch dein Kraft uns bereit
Und stärk des Fleisches Blödigkeit
Dass wir hier ritterlich ringen,
durch Tod und Leben zu dir dringen.
Halleluja.*

The Spirit helps our weakness, for we do not know what we should be asking or what is proper; rather, the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible sighs. He who seeks the heart's intention will know the Spirit's will; because he intercedes for the saints with God's blessing.

O thou holy flame, comfort sweet
Now help us, joyful and content
To stay for ever in thy service
That sadness may not cast us out.
O Lord, prepare us through thy might
Make strong the weakness of our flesh,
That we here may gallantly strive
Through death and life to reach thy presence.
Alleluia.

Thank You

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to support us during this crisis, both through regular giving and occasional gifts.

This financial support remains vital to our on-going ministry. Although our normal services have now resumed, our ability to raise funds to maintain our ministry and building is still impacted.

The singers, organist, and Director of Music are all freelance professional musicians who have been significantly affected during the pandemic, and your donations have allowed us to help them financially through these difficult times.

We shall continue to offer our online worship - even though this requires additional investment - because no service from St Bride's would be complete without the wonderful music which our choir provides.

If you would like to make a donation to support the work of St Bride's, please do so at:

www.justgiving.com/stbrideschurchfleetstreet

Alternatively, in the UK:

text 5STBRIDES to 70470 to donate £5

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**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**