



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER

TRINITY

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

SERMON IN MUSIC

26TH SEPTEMBER 2021, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**Blessèd city, heavenly Salem,
vision dear of peace and love,
who of living stones art builded
in the height of heaven above,
and with angel hosts encircled,
as a bride dost earthward move!**

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the Head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessèd to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.**

Tune: Westminster Abbey, adapted from an anthem by H Purcell 1659-95
Words: Latin, before 9th century, tr. J Neale 1818-66

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 Ayleward

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 121

Choir *1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills :
 from whence cometh my help.*

*2 My help cometh even from the Lord :
 who hath made heaven and earth.*

*3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved :
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.*

*4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel :
shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

*5 The Lord himself is thy keeper :
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;*

*6 So that the sun shall not burn thee by day :
neither the moon by night.*

*7 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil :
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.*

*8 The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in :
from this time forth for evermore.*

*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: Henry Walford Davies 1869-1941

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 24

read by Anthony Mann

And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the Lord, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. And Moses alone shall come near the Lord: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.

And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do.

And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of

the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.

Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God. And he said unto the elders, Tarry ye here for us, until we come again unto you: and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you: if any man have any matters to do, let him come unto them. And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

And the glory of the Lord abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

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

Magnificat

Evening Service in B flat – Henry Purcell

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

Matthew 9: 1-8

read by Madeleine Kearns

And Jesus entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man

blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house.

But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B flat – Henry Purcell

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 Ayleward

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 *Almighty God, thou hast made us for thyself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in thee:
pour thy love into our hearts and draw us to thyself,
and so bring us at last to thy heavenly city
where we shall see thee face to face;
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) A Song for the Season of Creation – Ian Stephens
ii) The heavens are telling – Franz Joseph Haydn
(Please see notes on page 14)

Prayers of Intercession

led by The Revd Dr Jeff Lake

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

**Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.**

**O magnify the Lord with me,
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.**

**The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliverance he affords to all
who on his succour trust.**

**O make but trial of his love,
experience will decide
how blest are they, and only they,
who in his truth confide!**

**Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
make you his service your delight,
your wants shall be his care.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

Tune: Wiltshire by G Smart 1776-1867
Words: N Tate 1652-1715 and N Brady 1659-1726
A New Version of the Psalms of David 1696 and 1698 Psalm 34

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

Concerto in A minor (1st movement) BWV 593 –
Johann Sebastian Bach after Antonio Vivaldi

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Sermon in Music

i) *A Song for the Season of Creation* – Ian Stephens

ii) *The heavens are telling* – Franz Joseph Haydn

Creationtide Sermon in Music

The Church of England has designated the period from 1st September to 4th October each year as Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, when we are asked to reflect on God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. This evening's Sermon in Music presents two pieces connected with this theme – one which is widely known and another which is more specifically linked to St Bride's.

Ian Stephens currently lives and works in Liverpool. He writes for a wide variety of ensembles, but choral music has always been an important part of his work. The Song for the Season of Creation was commissioned for St Bride's in 2018 by the Church of England environmental working group, following the success of the St Bride's choir's Plasticless Lent campaign. The composer has arranged the music for differing vocal forces in the hope that it will be widely sung by amateur and children's choirs, but it is heard tonight in its original version for unaccompanied choir. It is a setting of a poem by the priest and poet Malcolm Guite, who is well known at St Bride's through his membership of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists, who hold an annual service here in October.

Haydn's great oratorio *The Creation* was composed in the closing years of the 18th century and is thought to have been inspired by the large-scale performances of Handel's oratorios which Haydn heard on his visits to London. It was published in 1800 with a text in both German and English and is a setting of the Creation story from the opening chapters of the book of Genesis. "The heavens are telling" is the closing chorus of the first part of the oratorio and includes trio sections which feature all three of the main soloists in the work, who represent the archangels Gabriel (soprano), Uriel (tenor) and Raphael (bass).

A Song for the Season of Creation

Everything holds together, everything,
From stars that pierce the dark like living sparks,
To secret seeds that open every spring,
From spanning galaxies to spinning quarks,
Everything holds together and coheres,
Unfolding from the centre whence it came.
And now that hidden heart of things appears,
The first-born of creation takes a name.

And shall I see the one through whom I am?
Shall I behold the one for whom I'm made,
The light in light, the flame within the flame,
Eikon tou theou, image of my God?
He comes, a little child, to bless my sight,
That I might come to him for life and light.

Words: Malcolm Guite b 1957
based on Colossians 1:15-17

The heavens are telling

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
the wonder of his work displays the firmament.

To-day that is coming, speaks it the day,
the night that is gone, to following night.

In all the lands resounds the word,
never unperceived, ever understood.

Words: Psalm 19

Thank You

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to support us during this crisis through regular giving, and those who have made donations online via JustGiving and by text following our online services.

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 severely impacted.

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.

The singers, organist, and Director of Music are all freelance professional musicians who have been significantly affected, and we have been supporting them financially since lockdown.

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

text **10STBRIDES** to 70470 to donate £10

text **20STBRIDES** to 70470 to donate £20

Thank you for your support

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**