THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

CHORAL EVENSONG WITH SERMON IN MUSIC

9TH JANUARY 2022, 5:30PM

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Tune: Winchester New c1690
Words: C Coffin 1676-1749
Tr J Chandler 1808-76

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

John Sanders

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 47

Choir *1 O clap your hands together, all ye people :*
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

2 For the Lord is high, and to be feared :
he is the great King upon all the earth.

3 He shall subdue the people under us :
and the nations under our feet.

4 He shall choose out an heritage for us :
even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.

5 God is gone up with a merry noise :
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.

6 O sing praises, sing praises unto our God :
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

7 For God is the King of all the earth :
sing ye praises with understanding.

8 God reigneth over the heathen :
God sitteth upon his holy seat.

9 The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham :
for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.

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: Edwin G Monk 1819-1900

Old Testament Lesson
Isaiah 55: 1-11
read by Philip Tebb

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.
Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the

sure mercies of David. Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith 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 cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnifi cat

Evening Service in C – Charles Villiers Stanford

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 6: 1-11
read by Angelynne Hinson

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Nunc Dimittis
Evening Service in C – Charles Villiers Stanford

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
John Sanders

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 *Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus*
didst reveal him to be thy Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant that we, being born again by water and the Spirit,
may be faithful to our calling as thine adopted children;
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) O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit – Thomas Tallis
ii) O for a closer walk with God – Charles Villiers Stanford
iii) Come down, O love divine – William Harris

(Please see notes on page 17)

Prayers of Intercession
The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Assistant Priest of St Bride's*

These responses may be used

Lord, in thy mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

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

Hymn

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Tune: Divinum Mysterium from Piae Cantiones 1582
Words: Latin by Prudentius 348-413
Tr. J M Neale 1818-1866

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

Chorale Prelude 'In dir ist Freude' BWV 615 – Johann Sebastian Bach

Sermon in Music

i) *O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit* – Thomas Tallis c 1505-1585
ii) *O for a closer walk with God* – Charles Villiers Stanford 1852-1924
iii) *Come down, O love divine* – William Harris 1883-1973

Thomas Tallis was born around 1505, probably in Kent. He was in charge of the music at Waltham Abbey in Essex before its dissolution in 1540 and subsequently worked at the Chapel Royal for many years, where he had a profound influence on the next generation of church musicians, most notably his pupil, William Byrd. His exceptionally long career (he died in 1585) saw many liturgical changes directly affecting his style of composition, which ranged from the florid style of his early works, modelled on the Eton Choirbook, through simple English anthems designed for the new Book of Common Prayer. *If ye love me* is his best known example of this style, but this setting of a Whitsuntide prayer is also for just four voice parts, with a predominantly simple, chordal texture.

Charles Villiers Stanford was an Irishman by birth but became an important figure in the British musical establishment. His first appointment was as organist of Trinity College, Cambridge, which he took up in 1873 while still an undergraduate – later he became simultaneously Professor of Music at Cambridge and the first composition teacher at the newly opened Royal College of Music in London, where his pupils included Holst, Howells and Vaughan Williams. He was knighted in 1901 and died in 1924, being buried in Westminster Abbey near Henry Purcell.

Stanford was a prolific composer of all kinds of music but is principally remembered today for his church compositions. His four settings of the evening canticles (all of which exist in orchestral versions as well as with organ accompaniment) have long been a cornerstone of the Anglican repertoire and his three early Latin motets, all written for the choir at Trinity, are universally loved. *O for a closer walk with God* is a less ambitious piece, being an arrangement of a hymn rather than an original composition – the words are by the great 18th century poet

William Cowper and the melody is taken from the Scottish Psalter of 1635. The first verse is sung by sopranos alone, then the melody passes to the basses and an expanded version is given to the full choir in the final verse. Despite its origins in pre-existing material, the result is still characteristic of Stanford's style – the final passage builds to a series of rich and expansive chords before subsiding to a tender conclusion for the organ alone.

William Harris was one of the leading church musicians of the 20th century, holding posts in Birmingham and Oxford before becoming Organist of St George's chapel, Windsor Castle from 1933 until 1961. He is still remembered fondly at Windsor, where he gave piano lessons to the young princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. He was also a distinguished composer of church music, and his two unaccompanied eight-part anthems *Faire is the heaven* and *Bring us, O Lord God* are still in the repertoire of most good choirs. *Come down, O love divine* is another hymn-anthem, whose text is the familiar translation of a 15th century Whitsuntide hymn – it has similar characteristics to the Stanford piece, but in this case the tune is Harris's original composition, entitled *North Petherton*. This tune will probably never replace Vaughan Williams's much loved *Down Ampney* for congregational use, but it survives in this choral setting.

O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit

O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit into our hearts,
and lighten our understanding,
that we may dwell in the fear of thy name
all the days of our life;
that we may know thee, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

Words: Lidley's Prayers (1566)

O for a closer walk with God

O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest:
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
and drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

Words: William Cowper 1731-1800

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 he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling. Amen.

Words: Italian, Bianco da Siena d 1434
Tr. R F Littledale 1833-90

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
text 10STBRIDES to 70470 to donate £10
text 20STBRIDES to 70470 to donate £20

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH