



SUNDAY AFTER
ASCENSION

CHORAL EVENSONG

29TH MAY 2022, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Tune: Hanover
Descant: A Gray 1855-1935
Words: R Grant 1779-1838
Psalm 104

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

Jonathan Rathbone

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 68

Choir

*1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered :
let them also that hate him flee before him.*

*2 Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive
them away :
and like as wax melteth at the fire, so let the ungodly
perish at the presence of God.*

*3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God :
let them also be merry and joyful.*

*4 O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name :
magnify him that rideth upon the heavens, as it were
upon an horse; praise him in his Name jah,
and rejoice before him.*

*5 He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth
the cause of the widows :
even God in his holy habitation.*

*6 He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an
house, and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity :
but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.*

*7 O God, when thou wentest forth before the people :
when thou wentest through the wilderness;*

*8 The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the
presence of God :
even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God,
who is the God of Israel.*

*9 Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon
thine inheritance :
and refreshedst it when it was weary.*

*10 Thy congregation shall dwell therein :
for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness prepared
for the poor.*

*11 The Lord gave the word :
great was the company of the preachers.*

*12 Kings with their armies did flee,
and were discomfited :
and they of the household divided the spoil.*

*18 Thou art gone up on high, thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men :
yea, even for thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.*

*19 Praised be the Lord daily :
even the God who helpeth us, and poureth his benefits upon us.*

*Glory be to the Father, and 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 Smart 1813-79

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 44: 1-8

read by John Forrest

Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:

Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew

unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

First Evening Service – Thomas Morley

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

Ephesians 4: 7-16

read by Angela Cova

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

First Evening Service – Thomas Morley

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

Jonathan Rathbone

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, the King of glory,
*who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven:
we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,
but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us
and exalt us unto the same place
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before;
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.*

Anthem

Ascendit Deus – Peter Philips

*Ascendit Deus in jubilatione,
et Dominus in voce
tubae. Alleluia.*

*Dominus in coelo paravit
sedem suam. Alleluia.*

God is gone up with a merry noise,
and the Lord with the sound of the
trumpet.

The Lord hath prepared his seat
in heaven. Alleluia.

Words: Psalm 46: 6 and 102: 19

Sermon

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce, *Rector of St Bride's*

Hymn

**Thy kingdom come! On bended knee
the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned to see
on earth that kingdom's day.**

**But the slow watches of the night
not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right
the silent stars are strong.**

**And lo, already on the hills
the flags of dawn appear;
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
proclaim the day is near:**

**The day in whose clear-shining light
all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned in might,
and every hurt be healed;**

**When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
shall walk the earth abroad:
the day of perfect righteousness,
the promised day of God.**

Tune: Irish by S Powell, Dublin 1749
Words: F Hosmer 1840-1929

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

**When all thy mercies, O my God,
my rising soul surveys,
transported with the view, I'm lost
in wonder, love and praise.**

**Unnumbered comforts to my soul
thy tender care bestowed,
before my infant heart conceived
from whom those comforts flowed.**

**When in the slippery paths of youth
with heedless steps I ran,
thine arm unseen conveyed me safe,
and led me up to man.**

**Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
my daily thanks employ,
and not the least a cheerful heart
which tastes those gifts with joy.**

**Through every period of my life
thy goodness I'll pursue,
and after death in distant worlds,
the glorious theme renew.**

**Through all eternity to thee,
a joyful song I'll raise;
for O, eternity's too short
to utter all thy praise.**

Tune: Contemplation by F A G Ouseley 1825-89
Words: J Addison 1672-1719

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

Transports du joie (L'Ascension) – Olivier Messiaen

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

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