FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

CHORAL EVENSONG WITH SERMON IN MUSIC

25TH SEPTEMBER 2022, 5:30PM

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Tune: St Denio, Welsh adapted by J Roberts 1839
Words: W Chalmers Smith 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
Herbert Sumsion

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 135: 1-12

1 O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord :
praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;

2 Ye that stand in the house of the Lord :
in the courts of the house of our God.

3 O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious :
O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.

4 For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself :
and Israel for his own possession.

5 For I know that the Lord is great :
and that our Lord is above all gods.

6 Whatsoever the Lord pleased,
that did he in heaven and in earth :
and in the sea, and in all deep places.

7 He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world :
and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain, bringing the winds out of his treasures.

8 He smote the first-born of Egypt :
both of man and beast.

9 He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou land of Egypt :
upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.

10 He smote divers nations :
and slew mighty kings;

11 Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan :
and all the kingdoms of Canaan;

12 And gave their land to be an heritage :
even an heritage unto Israel his people.

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: John Robinson 1682-1762

Old Testament Lesson
Nehemiah 2
read by Graham Hill

And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon. And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire. Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass. Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned. And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work. But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat

Evening Service in D – Herbert Brewer

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
John 8: 31-38; 48-end
read by Rachel Chapman

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in D – Herbert Brewer

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

Herbert Sumsion

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 King,
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 *God, who of thy generous mercy*
didst send the Holy Spirit upon thy Church
in the burning fire of thy love:
grant that thy people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel that,
ever abiding in thee,
they may be found steadfast in faith
and active in service;
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) Abendlied – Josef Rheinberger
ii) One foot in Eden still, I stand – Nicholas Maw
(Please see notes on page 14)

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

This response 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

Morning glory, starlit sky,
soaring music, scholars' truth,
flight of swallows, autumn leaves,
memory's treasure, grace of youth:

Open are the gifts of God,
gifts of love to mind and sense;
hidden is love's agony,
love's endeavour, love's expense.

Love that gives, gives ever more,
gives with zeal, with eager hands,
spares not, keeps not, all outpours,
ventures all, its all expends.

Drained is love in making full,
bound in setting others free,
poor in making many rich,
weak in giving power to be.

Therefore he who shows us God
helpless hangs upon the tree;
and the nails and crown of thorns
tell of what God's love must be.

Here is God: no monarch he,
throned in easy state to reign;
here is God, whose arms of love
aching, spent, the world sustain.

Tune: Song 13 by O Gibbons 1583-1625
Words: W H Vanstone 1923-99

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

Introduction and Fugue, Sonata No 8 – Josef Rheinberger

Sermon in Music

i) Abendlied – Josef Rheinberger
ii) One foot in Eden still, I stand – Nicholas Maw

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901) was born in Liechtenstein but moved to Munich at the age of 12, later holding a number of musical posts in the city, including that of Kapellmeister to the Bavarian court. He was active as a composer throughout his life, specialising in church and organ music, and his twenty organ sonatas form an important element of 19th century repertoire for the instrument. The *Abendlied* (Evening Song) is a setting of verse 29 of the 24th chapter of St. Luke's Gospel (Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is far spent) - it is for six voices, with the soprano and tenor parts doubled, and is the last of a set of three unaccompanied sacred pieces published in 1873 and dedicated to a choral society in Berlin.

Nicholas Maw studied with Lennox Berkeley at the Royal Academy of Music, then with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. He first came to prominence with a choral work, *Scenes and Arias*, which was heard at the Proms in 1962, and, although his main reputation is as an orchestral composer, he continued to write choral music until his death in 2008. *One foot in Eden* dates from 1990 and was commissioned by King's College, Cambridge to celebrate their 500th anniversary. The text is by the Scottish poet Edwin Muir and the choral texture is rich throughout, with a solo quartet at first alternating with and then joining an eight-voice chorus.

Abendlied

Bleib bei uns,
denn es will Abend werden,
und der Tag hat sich geneiget.

Bide with us,
for evening shadows darken,
and the day will soon be over.

Words: Based on Luke 24: 29

One foot in Eden still, I stand

One foot in Eden still, I stand
And look across the other land.
The world's great day is growing late,
Yet strange these fields that we have planted
So long with crops of love and hate.
Time's handiworks by time are haunted
And nothing new can separate
The corn and tares compactly grown
The armorial weed in stillness bound
About the stalk; these are our own
Evil and good stand thick around
In the fi elds of charity and sin
Where we shall lead our harvest in.

Yet still from Eden springs the root
As clean as on the starting day
Time takes the foliage and the fruit
And burns the archetypal leaf
To shapes of terror and from grief
Scattered along the winter way
But famished field and blackened tree
Bear flowers in Eden never known
Blossoms of grief and charity
Bloom in these darkened fields alone.
What had Eden ever to say
Of hope and faith and pity and love
Until was buried all its day
And memory found its treasure trove?
Strange blessings never in Paradise
Fall from these be-clouded skies.

Words: Edwin Muir 1887-1959