LAST SUNDAY

AFTER

TRINITY

CHORAL EVENSONG

23RD OCTOBER 2022, 5:30PM

ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH

Hymn

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time:
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo! It glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time:
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

Tune: Wychbold by W G Whinfeld 1865–1919
Words: J Bowring 1792–1872

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
Gabriel Jackson

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 119: 1-16
Choir

1 Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way :
and walk in the law of the Lord.

2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies :
and seek him with their whole heart.

3 For they who do no wickedness :
walk in his ways.

4 Thou hast charged :
that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.

5 O that my ways were made so direct :
that I might keep thy statutes!

6 So shall I not be confounded :
while I have respect unto all thy commandments.

7 I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart :
when I shall have learned the judgements
of thy righteousness.

8 I will keep thy ceremonies :
O forsake me not utterly.

9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way :
even by ruling himself after thy word.

10 With my whole heart have I sought thee :
O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.

11 Thy words have I hid within my heart :
that I should not sin against thee.

12 Blessed art thou, O Lord :
O teach me thy statutes.

13 With my lips have I been telling :
of all the judgements of thy mouth.

14 I have had as great delight
in the way of thy testimonies :
as in all manner of riches.

15 I will talk of thy commandments :
and have respect unto thy ways.

16 My delight shall be in thy statutes :
and I will not forget thy word.

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: Thomas Atwood 1765-1838

Old Testament Lesson
Ecclesiastes 11 and 12
read by Lesley-Ann Jones

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun: But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened.

And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low; Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat
Evening Service in B flat – Edgar Day

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
2 Timothy 2: 1-17
read by Philip Tebb

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B flat – Edgar Day

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

Gabriel Jackson

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 *Blessed Lord,*
who hast caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
grant that we may in such wise hear them,
read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them,
that by patience and comfort of thy holy word,
we may embrace and ever hold fast
the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
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) Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen – Johannes Brahms
ii) Geistliches Lied – Johannes Brahms
(please see notes on page 15)

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

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Tune: New Britain, trad American folk-hymn arr. R Langston b. 1949
Words: Vs 1–4, J Newton 1725–1807
Vs 5, J Rees 1828–90

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 Passacaglia in D minor – Max Reger

St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London. CCLI Licence no 2277036
CCLI Streaming Licence no 954810

Sermon in Music

i) Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen – Johannes Brahms
ii) Geistliches Lied – Johannes Brahms

Johannes Brahms was one of the greatest 19th century Romantic composers. His reputation rests largely on his symphonic and chamber music, though he also left choral music from every part of his career. Despite having little sympathy with conventional Christian belief, he nevertheless took great care in his choice of biblical and devotional texts. Brahms composed his German Requiem in 1868 in memory of his mother who had recently died. The text is not that of the traditional Requiem, but a selection of Biblical texts, largely dealing with consolation for those who mourn. This fourth movement (often sung in English as 'How lovely are thy dwellings') is a setting of verses 1, 2 and 4 of Psalm 84.

The second piece we will hear this evening was written in 1856 (possibly in reaction to the death of Brahms' beloved mentor Robert Schumann). It is a setting of a devotional poem by 17th century writer, Paul Fleming. Although contrasting in both text and music, both of these pieces stress the comfort and peace to be found through total trust in God. The texts are given below.

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen,
Herr Zebaoth!
Meine Seele verlanget
und sehnet sich
nach den Vorhöfen des Herrn;
mein Leib und Seele freuen sich
in dem lebendigen Gott.
Wohl denen,
die in deinem Hause wohnen,
die loben dich immerdar.

How lovely is thy dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
For my soul, it longeth,
yea fainteth,
for the courts of the Lord :
my soul and body crieth out,
yea for the living God.
Blest are they,
that dwell within Thy house :
they praise Thy name evermore.

Psalm 84: Verses 1, 2, 4

Geistliches Lied

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauern
mit Trauern,
sei stille!
Wie Gott es fügt,
so sei vergnügt mein Wille.

Was willst du heute sorgen
auf morgen?
Der Eine
steht allem für;
der gibt auch dir das Deine.

Sei nur in allem Handel
ohn Wandel,
steh feste!
Was Gott beschleußt,
das ist und heißt das Beste.
Amen.

Let nothing indeed
make you endure grief;
Be at peace!
If God ordains it,
may my will accept it.

Why worry today
about tomorrow?
God stands for all;
He also gives you
what is yours.

In all your dealings
be without whim -
stand firmly!
That which God decides
is and means the best.
Amen.