



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER

TRINITY

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

SERMON IN MUSIC

9TH OCTOBER 2022, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways!**

**O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.**

**O generous love! That he who smote
in man for man the foe,
the double agony in man
for man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways!**

Tune: Gerontius by J B Dykes 1823-76
Words: J H Newman 1801-90

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 Reading

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 144

Choir

*1 Blessed be the Lord my strength :
who teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight;*

*2 My hope and my fortress, my castle and deliverer,
my defender in whom I trust :
who subdueth my people that is under me.*

*3 Lord, what is man, that thou hast
such respect unto him :
or the son of man, that thou so regardest him?*

*4 Man is like a thing of nought :
his time passeth away like a shadow.*

*5 Bow thy heavens, O Lord, and come down :
touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.*

*6 Cast forth thy lightning, and tear them :
shoot out thine arrows, and consume them.*

*7 Send down thine hand from above :
deliver me, and take me out of the great waters,
from the hand of strange children;*

*8 Whose mouth talketh of vanity :
and their right hand is a right hand of wickedness.*

*9 I will sing a new song unto thee, O God :
and sing praises unto thee upon a ten-stringed lute.*

*10 Thou hast given victory unto kings :
and hast delivered David thy servant
from the peril of the sword.*

*11 Save me, and deliver me
from the hand of strange children :
whose mouth talketh of vanity,
and their right hand is a right hand of iniquity.*

*12 That our sons may grow up as the young plants :
and that our daughters may be
as the polished corners of the temple.*

*13 That our garners may be full and plenteous
with all manner of store :
that our sheep may bring forth thousands
and ten thousands in our streets.*

*14 That our oxen may be strong to labour,
that there be no decay :
no leading into captivity,
and no complaining in our streets.*

*15 Happy are the people that are in such a case :
yea, blessed are the people who have the Lord
for their God.*

*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

Nehemiah 6: 1-16

read by Robin Turner

Now it came to pass when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand; Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words. And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me. My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

Evening Service in G – John Blow

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 15:12-end

read by Nadira Wallace

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.

He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in G – John Blow

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 Reading

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 *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 the 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) *O pray for the peace of Jerusalem* – John Blow

ii) *O where shall wisdom be found* – William Boyce

(Please see notes on page 16)

Prayers of Intercession

The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest*

This response 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

Glory to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light;
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath thy own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done,
that with the world, myself and thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed;
teach me to die, that so I may
rise glorious at the awful day.

O may my soul on thee repose,
and with sweet sleep my eyelids close,
sleep that may me more vigorous make
to serve my God when I awake.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Tune: Tallis' Canon by T Tallis c 1505–85
Words: T Ken 1637–1711

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

Cornet Voluntary in A minor – John Blow

Sermon in Music

i) *O pray for the peace of Jerusalem* – John Blow

ii) *O where shall wisdom be found* – William Boyce

John Blow was one of a group of composers who began their musical careers as choirboys in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace when it was re-formed in 1660 on the Restoration of Charles II to the monarchy. Blow is often overshadowed by his younger colleague Henry Purcell, but many of the characteristics of the music of this period, which Purcell developed, are also present in Blow's work. One example of this is the French style of writing, featuring lively dotted rhythms – this was a style which the new King had heard and enjoyed at the French court during his years of exile, and it can be heard during the faster sections of "O pray for the peace of Jerusalem," a setting of verses 6-9 of Psalm 122. The piece begins with an extended passage for sopranos alone which presents the whole text; the last two sections are then repeated in a harmonised version for full choir.

After the death of this group of Chapel Royal musicians (especially with Purcell's premature demise in 1695), English music entered a period where there were few composers of distinction. Throughout the 18th century, London's musical life was dominated by Handel, who came to live in England as court composer to the Hanoverian royal family. One of the few Englishmen whose music is still heard is William Boyce (1710-1779) who was active not only as an organist and composer but also as a collector and publisher of music – his great compilation of the best church music of the previous 300 years, entitled "Boyce's Cathedral Music," formed the basis of the musical repertoire in many cathedrals until well into the 20th century. As a composer he is probably most famous for the hymn-tune normally sung to "Firmly I believe and truly," but this anthem is also still regularly heard. It is a setting of verses from Chapter 28 of the Book of Job and is written for five vocal parts, with two sopranos. Sections for solo voices alternate with passages for full choir, and the central trio for the three lower voices harks back to the style of Purcell and the earlier generation.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
They shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.
For my brethren and companions' sakes,
I will wish thee prosperity.
Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do thee good.

Psalm 122: 6-9

O where shall wisdom be found

O where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
Man knoweth not the price thereof;
neither is it found in the land of the living.
The depth saith, it is not in me:
and the sea saith, it is not with me.
It cannot be gotten for gold,
neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.
No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls:
for the price of wisdom is above rubies.
Whence then cometh wisdom?
And where is the place of understanding?
Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living.
God understandeth the way thereof,
and He knoweth the place thereof.
For He looketh to the ends of the earth,
and seeth under the whole heav'n;
to make the weight for the winds;
and He weigheth the waters by measure.
When he made a decree for the rain,
and a way for the lightning of the thunder;
then did He see it, and declare it;
He prepared it, yea, and searched it out.
And unto man He said,
behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28: 12-15, 18, 20-28