PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

CHORAL EVENSONG WITH SERMON IN MUSIC

28TH JANUARY 2024, 5:30PM

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

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

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 122

1 I was glad when they said unto me :
We will go into the house of the Lord.

2 Our feet shall stand in thy gates :
O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city :
that is at unity in itself.

4 For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord :
to testify unto Israel,
to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.

5 For there is the seat of judgement :
even the seat of the house of David.

6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem :
they shall prosper that love thee.

7 Peace be within thy walls :
and plenteousness within thy palaces.

8 For my brethren and companions' sakes :
I will wish thee prosperity.

9 Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God :
I will seek to do thee good.

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 Stainer 1840-1901

Old Testament Lesson
Haggai 2: 1-9
read by Robert Bryan

In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the Lord by the prophet Haggai, saying, Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts: According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake

the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnifi cat

Second Evening Service – William Byrd

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 2: 18-22
read by Nina Bennet

Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.

When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

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

Nunc Dimittis
Second Evening Service – William Byrd

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 and ever-living God,*
we humbly beseech thy majesty,
that, as thy only-begotten Son
was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh,
so we may be presented unto thee
with pure and clean hearts,
by thy Son Jesus Christ 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) When to the temple Mary went – Johannes Eccard
ii) Videte miraculum – Thomas Tallis
(please see notes on page 12)

Please kneel or sit
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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation:
all ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm,
or when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work
and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!All
that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!

Tune: Lobe den Herren, 17th century German,
set to Neander's Lobe den Herren in 1863
Words: German, J Neander 1650-80
Translation: C Winkworth 1827–78

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: Mit Fried' und Freud' ich fahr' dahin BWV 616 – Johann Sebastian Bach

St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London. CCLI Licence no 2277036
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Sermon in Music Notes

i) When to the temple Mary went – Johannes Eccard
ii) Videte miraculum – Thomas Tallis

Johannes Eccard (1553-1611) was a pupil of Lassus and held church posts in Augsburg and Königsberg before ending his career in charge of music at the cathedral in Berlin. This setting of a text for the Feast of the Purification (also known as Candlemas, which we are celebrating today) is for six voices, with the doubled bass part giving it a sonorous texture – there are two verses, with the second half of each verse repeated. The English translation used in this performance was made by John Troutbeck when the piece was included in the Church Anthem Book, published in 1933, since when it has been a regular part of the repertoire of many choirs.

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), to the devotional Latin works favoured by the court of Queen Elizabeth I. *Videte miraculum* is thought to date from this later period, even though the text comes from the pre-Reformation Use of Sarum, where it was used at several different services during the Feast of the Purification. It is in the form known as a Respond, where the polyphonic setting (in this case for six parts) is based on the plainsong melody and passages of the music are repeated after sections of unadorned chant – just the polyphony will be heard in this version.

When to the temple Mary went

When to the temple Mary went,
and brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said:
in peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,
the Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,
that we may ever be as once the faithful Simeon was,
rejoicing but in Thee;
and when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

Words: John Troutbeck 1832-99

Videte miraculum

Videte miraculum
matris Domini:
concepit virgo virilis
ignara consortii,
stans onerata
nobili onere Maria;
et matrem se laetam cognoscit,
quae se nescit uxorem.

Behold the miracle
of the mother of the Lord:
a virgin has conceived
though she knows not a man,
Mary, who stands laden
with her noble burden;
knowing not that she is a wife,
she rejoices to be a mother.

Haec speciosum forma
prae filiishominum
castis concepit visceribus,
et benedicta in aeternum Deum
nobis protulit et hominem.

She has conceived in her chaste
womb one who is beautiful beyond
the sons of men, and blessed for
ever, she has brought forth God
and man for us.

Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.

Words: Purification of the BVM
Respond at 1st Vespers