



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**CHORAL EVENSONG
WITH
SERMON IN MUSIC**

14TH MAY 2023, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.**

**For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.**

**Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.**

**Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.**

**Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear:
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own!**

Tune: Wareham by W Knapp 1698–1768
Words: W Cowper 1731–1800

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

Philip Radcliffe

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 87

Choir *1 Her foundations are upon the holy hills :
 the Lord loveth the gates of Sion
 more than all the dwellings of Jacob.*

*2 Very excellent things are spoken of thee :
 thou city of God.*

*3 I will think upon Rahab and Babylon :
 with them that know me.*

*4 Behold ye the Philistines also :
and they of Tyre, with the Morians; lo, there was he born.*

*5 And of Sion it shall be reported that he was born in her :
and the most High shall stablish her.*

*6 The Lord shall rehearse it when he writeth up the people :
that he was born there.*

*7 The singers also and trumpeters shall he rehearse :
all my fresh springs shall be in thee.*

*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: Charles F South 1850-1916

Old Testament Lesson

Zechariah 8: 1-13

read by Roger Garside

Again the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built. For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men everyone against his neighbour.

But now I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the Lord of hosts. For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

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

Magnificat

Evening Service in B flat – Charles Villiers Stanford

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

Revelation 21: 22 - 22: 5

read by Lesley-Ann Jones

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B flat – Charles Villiers Stanford

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

Philip Radcliffe

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.*

Choir	<i>Our Father, which art in heaven,</i> <i>hallowed be thy Name,</i> <i>Thy kingdom come,</i> <i>Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.</i> <i>Give us this day our daily bread;</i> <i>and forgive us our trespasses,</i> <i>as we forgive them that trespass against us;</i> <i>and lead us not into temptation,</i> <i>but deliver us from evil.</i> <i>Amen.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us,</i> <i>and grant us thy salvation.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O Lord, save the King,</i> <i>and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>Endue thy Ministers with righteousness,</i> <i>and make thy chosen people joyful.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O Lord, save thy people,</i> <i>and bless thine inheritance.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>Give peace in our time, O Lord,</i> <i>because there is none other that fighteth for us,</i> <i>but only thou, O God.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O God, make clean our hearts within us,</i> <i>and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.</i>

Collects

The first, for the day

Minister *God our redeemer,
who hast delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of thy Son:
grant, that as by his death he hath recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us
he may raise us to eternal joy;
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 for a closer walk with God* – Anthony Baldwin
 - ii) *O for a closer walk with God* – Charles Villiers Stanford
 - iii) *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem* – Charles Villiers Stanford
- (Please see page 14 for texts and notes)

Prayers of Intercession

led by the Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

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.

Notices

Hymn

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand has provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Tune: Great is thy faithfulness by W M Runyan 1870-1957
Words: T Chisholm 1866-1960

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

At Eastertide – Charles Villiers Stanford

Sermon in Music

i) *O for a closer walk with God* – Anthony Baldwin

ii) *O for a closer walk with God* – Charles Villiers Stanford

iii) *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem* – Charles Villiers Stanford

Charles Villiers Stanford was an Irishman by birth, but became an important figure in the British musical establishment. His first appointment was as organist of Trinity College, Cambridge, which he took up in 1873 while still an undergraduate – later he became simultaneously Professor of Music at Cambridge and the first composition teacher at the newly opened Royal College of Music in London, where his pupils included Holst, Howells and Vaughan Williams. He was knighted in 1901 and died in 1924, being buried in Westminster Abbey near Henry Purcell.

Stanford was a prolific composer of all kinds of music, but is principally remembered today for his church compositions. His four settings of the evening canticles (all of which exist in orchestral versions as well as with organ accompaniment) have long been a cornerstone of the Anglican repertoire and his three early Latin motets, all written for the choir at Trinity, are universally loved. *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem* is a comparatively late work, dating from 1911, and is a lively, vigorous setting of an Easter hymn by the 11th century Saint Fulbert of Chartres, using the familiar translation by Robert Campbell, a 19th century Scottish lawyer and hymn writer.

The other Stanford anthem to be heard this evening is a less ambitious piece, being an arrangement of a hymn rather than an original composition. The words are by the great 18th century poet William Cowper, and the melody is taken from the Scottish Psalter of 1635. The first verse is sung by sopranos alone, then the melody passes to the basses and an expanded version is given to the full choir in the final verse. Despite its origins in pre-existing material, the result is still characteristic of Stanford's style – the final passage builds to a series of rich and expansive chords before subsiding to a tender conclusion for the organ alone.

This is preceded by an original setting of the same text by the contemporary British composer Antony Baldwin, a former Oxford organ scholar who directed the choir of the American Church in London for many years. Although largely conventional in terms of style and harmony, it has a hauntingly beautiful melody which is worthy to stand alongside the original Scottish tune.

i) O for a closer walk with God

Choir *O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!*

*Return, O holy dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.*

*So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.*

Text: William Cowper 1731-1800

ii) Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Choir *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the Paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.*

*For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,
crushing the serpent's head;
and cries aloud through death's domains
to wake the imprisoned dead.*

*Devouring depths of hell their prey
at his command restore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where Jesus goes before.*

*Triumphant in his glory now
to him all power is given;
to him in one communion bow
all saints in earth and Heaven.*

*While we, His soldiers, praise our King,
His mercy we implore,
within his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.*

*All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,
while endless ages run.*

Alleluia! Amen.

Text: Robert Campbell 1814-1868