THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

SERMON IN MUSIC

22ND JANUARY 2023, 5:30PM

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

Hymn

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and, that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me,
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

Tune: Gwalchmai by J D Jones 1827–70
Words: G Herbert 1593–1633

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 33: 1-12

Choir

1 Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous :
for it becometh well the just to be thankful.

2 Praise the Lord with harp :
sing praises unto him with the lute,
and instrument of ten strings.

3 Sing unto the Lord a new song :
sing praises lustily unto him with a good courage.

4 For the word of the Lord is true :
and all his works are faithful.

5 He loveth righteousness and judgement :
the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made :
and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together,
as it were upon an heap :
and layeth up the deep, as in a treasure-house.

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord :
stand in awe of him, all ye that dwell in the world.

9 For he spake, and it was done :
he commanded, and it stood fast.

10 The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought :
and maketh the devices of the people to be of none effect,
and casteth out the counsels of princes.

11 The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever :
and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation.

12 Blessed are the people, whose God is the Lord Jehovah :
and blessed are the folk,
that he hath chosen to him to be his inheritance.

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: George C Martin 1844-1916

Old Testament Lesson
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11
read by Nina Bennet

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can fi nd out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

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

Magnificat
Evening Service in D minor – Thomas Attwood Walmisley

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
1 Peter 1: 3-12
read by Robert Jones

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in D minor – Thomas Attwood Walmisley

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,*
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of thy saving presence:
renew thy people with thy heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness sustain us by thy mighty power;
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) *The Three Kings* – Peter Cornelius
ii) *Say, where is he born* – Felix Mendelssohn
(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

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 aweful 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.

When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no powers of darkness me molest.

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

Tune: Tallis' Canon by T Tallis c1505–85
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

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern BuxWV 223 – Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Sermon in Music
i) The Three Kings – Peter Cornelius
ii) Say, where is he born – Felix Mendelssohn

This evening's Sermon in Music presents two pieces suitable for the season of Epiphany. Details of the composers and texts are given below.

Peter Cornelius (1824-74) was a German composer, poet and translator, who was friendly with both Liszt and Wagner. *Die Könige* (The Three Kings) was one of a set of *Weinachtslieder* (Christmas Songs) for solo voice which were his Opus 8, dating from 1856. The accompaniment uses the hymn *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* (How brightly shines the morning star) and was originally intended for piano - the arrangement of the hymn for choir was made by the British organist Ivor Atkins (1869-1953, organist of Worcester Cathedral for over 50 years and a close friend of Elgar), and this version is still frequently performed.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) was a German composer and contemporary of Cornelius (the two composers met at least once towards the end of Mendelssohn's life, when Cornelius lived in Berlin from 1844-52. Mendelssohn had planned and begun work on an oratorio on the life of Christ, to be entitled simply *Christus*, but it was left uncompleted upon his early death in 1847. The work is strongly influenced by Johann Sebastian Bach, whose music was enjoying a revival which Mendelssohn had helped to organise (he conducted the first performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* for almost a hundred years). The idea of solo voices narrating the gospel story, followed by the choir commentating on the action and concluding with a traditional German hymn tune, is a pattern familiar from many of Bach's cantatas. This pattern is followed exactly in this Epiphany section from *Christus* – a soprano narrator followed by three male soloists (representing the three kings) sing the words of the Gospel, then a section for choir – *There shall a star from Jacob come forth* – leads into a setting of *How brightly shines the morning star*, the same hymn upon which the Cornelius is based.

The Three Kings

Soloist *Three Kings from Persian lands afar*
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Choir *How brightly shines the morning star!*
With grace and truth from heaven afar
our Jesse tree now bloweth.

Soloist *The star shines out with a steadfast ray;*
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Choir *Of Jacob's stem and David's line,*
for thee my Bridegroom, King divine,
my soul with love o'erfloweth.

Soloist *Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem*
the Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
offer thy heart to the infant King.

Choir *Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,*
rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Text: P Cornelius 1824-74, translated H N Bate 1871-1941

Say, where is he born

Choir

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem,
in the land of Judaea;
behold, from the east to the city of Jerusalem
there came wise men, and said:

Say, where is He born, the King of Judaea?
For we have seen His star, and are come to adore Him.

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up,
and dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star of morning gleams,
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
of light and consolation!

Thy word, O Lord,
radiance darting, truth imparting,
gives salvation;
thine be praise and adoration!

Text: Matthew 2: 1-2, Numbers 24: 17, Psalm 2: 9