



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

SERMON IN MUSIC

8TH JANUARY 2023, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

Tune: Epiphany by J F Thrupp 1827-67
Words: R Heber 1783-1826

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

Humphrey Clucas

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 47

Choir
*1 O clap your hands together, all ye people :
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.*

*2 For the Lord is high, and to be feared :
he is the great King upon all the earth.*

*3 He shall subdue the people under us :
and the nations under our feet.*

*4 He shall choose out an heritage for us :
even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.*

*5 God is gone up with a merry noise :
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.*

*6 O sing praises, sing praises unto our God :
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.*

*7 For God is the King of all the earth :
sing ye praises with understanding.*

*8 God reigneth over the heathen :
God sitteth upon his holy seat.*

*9 The princes of the people are joined
unto the people of the God of Abraham :
for God, which is very high exalted,
doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.*

*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

Isaiah 60: 1-9

read by Matthew Morley

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat

Evening Service in E minor – Daniel Purcell

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: 1-11

read by Michelle Blond

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

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

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in E minor – Daniel Purcell

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

Humphrey Clucas

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 *O God,
who by the leading of a star
didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles:
mercifully grant that we,
who know thee now by faith,
may after this life have the fruition
of thy glorious Godhead;
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) *Omnes de Saba venient* – Orlandus Lassus

ii) *Omnes de Saba venient* – Jacob Handl

iii) *The Three Kings* – Jonathan Dove

(Please see notes on page 15)

Prayers of Intercession

The Revd Steve Morris, *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.

Hymn

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.**

**Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing and
daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever, his
changeless name of love.**

Tune: Crüger, Adapted by W H Monk 1823-89
from a chorale by J Crüger 1598-1662
Words: J Montgomery 1771-1854, based on Psalm 72

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

La Marche des Rois Mages – Théodore Dubois

Sermon in Music

i) *Omnes de Saba* – Orlandus Lassus

ii) *Omnes de Saba* – Jacob Handl

iii) *The Three Kings* – Jonathan Dove

This evening's Sermon in Music presents three pieces suitable for Epiphany - two from the Renaissance period and one contemporary. Details of the composers and texts are given below.

Orlandus Lassus was born in Mons in the Low Countries (now in Belgium) in the early 1530s and sang so beautifully as a child that he was kidnapped three times by rival choirs in Italy, eventually entering the service of the Viceroy of Sicily. As a young man he spent two years in Rome, then returned north to Antwerp, where he published his first volume of compositions before being persuaded to join the court of Duke Albert V of Bavaria in Munich in 1556. He remained there until his death in 1594 and continued to compose prolifically, leaving 53 mass settings, over a hundred Magnificats and several hundred motets. *Omnes de Saba* is written for eight voices, divided into two equal four-part choirs and Lassus exploits the antiphonal contrasts between the choirs for maximum sonority, clearly influenced by the experiments of the Gabriellis in Venice, where Lassus sometimes travelled to recruit singers.

Jacob Handl, also known as Gallus, the Latin version of his name, came from the area which is now Slovenia (the country celebrated its new-found independence from Yugoslavia with a commemoration in 1991 of the 400th anniversary of Handl's death.) Most of his works were published in Prague, where he worked as a church musician for the last ten years of his life, and this five-voice motet is typical of his vigorous, uncomplicated style.

Jonathan Dove is a British composer, born in 1959, who is a well-established figure in contemporary musical circles. His opera *Flight*, which deals with the never-ending plight of the refugee, attracted great critical acclaim at Glyndebourne in 1999 and his opera for television based on the death of Princess Diana,

composed in 2002, kept his name in the public eye. His choral work, *The Far Theatricals of Day*, written for the John Armitage Memorial Project has been recorded by St. Bride's Choir along with a number of Dove's other compositions, including *The Three Kings*. This was composed for the annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols in King's College, Cambridge in 2000 and is a setting of a poem by Dorothy L Sayers.

Omnes de Saba

*Omnes de Saba venient,
aurum et thus deferentes,
et laudem Domino annuntiantes.
Alleluia.*

All they from Sheba shall come
bringing gold and frankincense,
and showing forth praise to the Lord.
Alleluia.

*Reges Tharsis et insulae
munera offerent,
reges Arabum et Saba
dona adducent.
Alleluia.*

The kings of Tharsis and the islands
shall offer presents,
the kings of the Arabians and Sheba
shall bring gifts.
Alleluia.

Text: Isaiah 60: 6, and Psalm 71: 10

The Three Kings

The first king was very young,
O balow, balow la lay,
with doleful ballads on his tongue,
O balow, balow la lay,
he came bearing a branch of myrrh
than which no gall is bitterer,
O balow, balow la lay,
gifts for a baby King, O.

The second king was a man in prime,
O balow, balow la lay,
the solemn priest of a solemn time,
O balow, balow la lay,
with eyes downcast and reverent feet
he brought his incense sad and sweet,
O balow, balow la lay,
gifts for a baby King, O.

The third king was very old,
O balow, balow la lay,
both his hands were full of gold,
O balow, balow la lay,
many a gaud and glittering toy,
baubles brave for a baby boy,
O balow, balow la lay,
gifts for a baby King, O.

Text: Dorothy L Sayers 1893-1957