CHRIST THE KING

CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

SERMON IN MUSIC

26TH NOVEMBER 2023, 5:30PM

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

Hymn

Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.

Round the Lord in glory seated
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:

“Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.”

Heaven is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry,
“holy, holy, holy,” singing,
“Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.”

With his seraph train before him,
with his holy church below,
thus unite we to adore him,
bid we thus our anthem flow:

“Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.”

Tune: Laus Deo, R Redhead 1820-1901
Words: R Mant 1776-1848, after Isaiah 6
Descant: Whitlock

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 Sanders

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 93

Choir

1 The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel :
the Lord hath put on his apparel,
and girded himself with strength.

2 He hath made the round world so sure :
that it cannot be moved.

3 Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared :
thou art from everlasting.

4 The floods are risen, O Lord,
the floods have lift up their voice :
the floods lift up their waves.

5 The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly :
but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.

6 Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very sure :
holiness becometh thine house 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.

Chant: Frederick Ouseley (1825-1899)

Old Testament Lesson
2 Samuel 23: 1-7
read by Danny Joseph

Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow. But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands: But the man that shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place.

This is the word of the Lord.
All **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
Matthew 28: 16-end
read by Lesley-Ann Jones

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

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

John Sanders

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 *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 *Eternal Father,*
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit,
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
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 clap your hands – Orlando Gibbons
ii) A hymn of St Columba – Benjamin Britten
iii) Let all mortal flesh keep silence – Edward Bairstow
(Please see notes on page 14)

Prayers of Intercession
led by 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.

Notices

Hymn

Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,
cleave the skies with shouts of praise;
sing to him who found the ransom,
ancient of eternal Days,
God of God, the Word incarnate,
whom the heaven of heaven obeys.

Ere he raised the lofty mountains,
formed the seas, or built the sky,
love eternal, free, and boundless,
moved the Lord of life to die,
fore-ordained the Prince of princes
for the throne of Calvary.

There, for us and our redemption,
see him all his life-blood pour!
there he wins our full salvation,
dies that we may die no more;
then, arising, lives for ever,
reigning where he was before.

High on yon celestial mountains
stands his sapphire throne, all bright,
midst unending alleluias
bursting from the sons of light;
Zion's people tell his praises,
victor after hard-won fight.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

Tune: Neander by J Neander 1650–80
Words: J Hupton 1762–1849, and J M Neale 1818–66

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

Acclamations, Suite Médiévale – Jean Langlais

Sermon in Music

i) O clap your hands – Orlando Gibbons
ii) A Hymn of St Columba – Benjamin Britten
iii) Let all mortal flesh keep silence – Edward Bairstow

This evening's Sermon in Music consists of three contrasting pieces in celebration of the feast of Christ the King, which falls today - all have texts which mention the kingship of Christ. The first sets verses from Psalm 47, which is also sometimes used at Ascensiontide, when Jesus was raised to sit on his everlasting throne as King.

Orlando Gibbons was the leading English church musician of the early years of the 17th century, becoming organist of both Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal before his untimely death in 1625 at the age of 41. He was a prolific composer of madrigals and keyboard music as well as music for the church – he developed the 'verse anthem' style of writing pioneered by Byrd, where solo voices alternate with sections for full choir, but also composed purely choral pieces, of which "O clap your hands" is one of the most famous examples. It is written for eight voices, which are sometimes used individually in long imitative passages, but are heard elsewhere as two antiphonal four-part choirs. It is a lively and exuberant piece, deservedly popular with singers.

The *Hymn of St Columba* was composed from Britten's Aldeburgh Festival in 1963 and is a setting of words attributed to St Columba, who lived from the years 521-597.

Edward Bairstow was organist of York Minster for over 30 years at the start of the 20th century, having begun his career as a pupil of his predecessor, TT Noble (composer of the well known canticle setting in B minor), who emigrated to the USA to take over the music at St Thomas's 5th Avenue in New York City. Standards of music at York had been high under Noble and remained so under Bairstow ...rumour has it that he was offered the vacant post at Westminster Abbey during the 1920's but declined it! On his death in 1945,

Bairstow was succeeded in turn by his pupil, Francis Jackson. Bairstow was a prolific composer of church music, and one of his finest compositions is *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*. It combines memorable tunes with sensitive harmony, colourful word-painting, striking unison, imaginative scoring, meticulous word-setting, fastidious attention to dynamic contrast and full use of the vocal range of each voice. The music falls into three main sections: the first somber and mystical, the second colourful and lively, the third with triumphant 'Alleluias, rounded off by a short codetta repeating the opening line, this time with a distant harmonic background from the choir.

i) O clap your hands – Orlando Gibbons

O, clap your hands, all ye people;
shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible;
He is a great King over all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises unto our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth:
sing ye praises, everyone that hath understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen:
God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.
Sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

ii) A Hymn of St Columba – Benjamin Britten

Regis regum rectissimi,	King of kings and of lords most high,
prope est dies domini,	Comes his day of judgement nigh:
dies irae et vindicate,	Day of wrath and vengeance stark,
tenebrarum et nebulae.	Day of shadows and cloudy dark.
Regis regum rectissimi.	King of kings and of lords most high.

Diesque mirabilium,	Thunder shall rend that day apart,
tonitruorum fortium;	Wonder amaze each fearful heart.
dies guogue angustiae,	Anguish and pain and deep distress
maeroris ac tristitiae.	Shall mark that day of bitterness.
Regis regum recrissimi.	King of kings and of lords most high.
In quo cessabit mulierum,	That day the pangs of lust will cease,
amor et desiderium:	man's questing heart shall be at peace;
nominumque contentio,	then shall the great no more contend,
mundi hujus et cupido.	and worldly fame be at an end.
Regis regum rectissime.	King of kings and of lords most high.

iii) Let all mortal flesh keep silence – Edward Bairstow

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and stand with fear and trembling,
and lift itself above all earthly thought.

For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God,
cometh forth to be our oblation,
and to be given for Food to the faithful.

Before Him come the choirs of angels
with every principality and power;
the Cherubim with many eyes, and wingèd Seraphim,
who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn:
Alleluia!

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



ADVENT CAROLS
SUN 3RD DEC, 5:30PM

CEREMONY OF CAROLS
SUN 10TH DEC, 5:30PM

CRIB SERVICE
SUN 17TH DEC, 2:30PM

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUN 17TH DEC, 5:30PM

FLEET ST CAROLS
THU 21ST DEC, 12 & 5PM

SING CHOIRS OF ANGELS
SUN 24TH DEC, 4:30PM

MIDNIGHT MASS
SUN 24TH DEC, 11:30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE
MON 25TH DEC, 11AM

Come and celebrate the wonder of Christmas retold in music and words

Further information https://www.stbrides.com/advent

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