

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity  
commonly called

# CHRIST CHURCH DUBLIN



**Sunday 15 October 2023**

15.30 Choral Evensong

Sung by the Cathedral Choir

Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection – of leaving ourselves open that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service.

We welcome you to share with us in worship that has been offered here for nearly a thousand years. Cathedrals with a great choral tradition draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. In the Anglican tradition this music finds its natural setting in the office of Evensong, a combination of the medieval offices of Vespers and Compline. Here beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

There are no announcements during services. Please join strongly in all spoken parts and in the singing of hymns (where these are appointed). To aid reflection you are invited to *sit* during the psalmody and canticles.

**The recording of any part of the service is strictly prohibited**

## **Introit**

A new commandment give I unto you, saith the Lord,  
that ye love together, as I have loved you, that e'en so ye love one another.  
By this shall ev'ry man know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

John 13: 34-5

*Please stand when the choir and clergy enter.*

*Following the reading of the sentence, the Priest introduces the Confession.*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of almighty God; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by their infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at their hands, to set forth their most worthy praise, to hear their most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, as we sit or kneel and humbly confess our sins unto almighty God.

### **The Confession**

Almighty and most merciful God; **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 humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful God, for their sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

### **The Absolution**

Almighty God, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to their Ministers, to declare and pronounce to their people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: They pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe their holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech them to grant us true repentance, and their Holy Spirit, that those things may please them which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to their eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Preces**

Matthew Martin (b.1976)

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips;  
Choir and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise,  
Cantor O God, make speed to save us;  
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;  
Choir as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.  
Cantor Praise ye the Lord.  
Choir The Lord's Name be praised

### **The Choir sings the psalm(s) appointed for the day, Psalm 139**

*Please sit*

O Lord thou hast searched me out and known me :  
thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising,  
thou understandest my thoughts long before.  
Thou art about my path, and about my bed :  
and spiest out all my ways.

For lo, there is not a word in my tongue :

but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.  
Thou hast fashioned me behind and before :  
and laid thine hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me :  
I cannot attain unto it.  
Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit :  
or whither shall I go then from thy presence?  
If I climb up into heaven, thou art there :  
if I go down to hell, thou art there also.  
If I take the wings of the morning :  
and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
Even there also shall thy hand lead me :  
and thy right hand shall hold me.  
If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me :  
then shall my night be turned to day.  
Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day :  
the darkness and light to thee are both alike.  
For my reins are thine :  
thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.  
I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made :  
marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.  
My bones are not hid from thee :  
though I be made secretly, and fashioned beneath in the earth.  
Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect :  
and in thy book were all my members written;  
Which day by day were fashioned :  
when as yet there was none of them.  
How dear are thy counsels unto me, O God :  
O how great is the sum of them!  
If I tell them, they are more in number than the sand :  
when I wake up I am present with thee.  
Wilt thou not slay the wicked, O God :  
depart from me, ye blood-thirsty men.  
For they speak unrighteously against thee :  
and thine enemies take thy Name in vain.  
Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee :  
and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?  
Yea, I hate them right sore :  
even as though they were mine enemies.  
Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart :  
prove me, and examine my thoughts.  
Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me :  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

*Please stand*

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.

*Please sit*

## **The First Lesson – Proverbs 3: 1-18**

**The Magnificat** *The song of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

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 shewed 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. *Please stand*

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. *Please sit*

Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953) Evening Service in B minor

## **The Second Lesson - Acts 18: 1-16**

### **The Nunc Dimittis** *The song of Simeon*

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. *Please stand*

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.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

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 Spirit,**  
**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 Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the Communion of Saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## **The Lesser Litany and Responses**

Cantor The Lord be with you  
Choir and with thy spirit.  
Cantor Let us pray

*Please kneel or sit*

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.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;  
Choir and grant us thy salvation.  
Cantor O Lord, guide and defend our rulers;  
Choir and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;  
Choir and make thy chosen people joyful.  
Cantor O Lord, save thy people;  
Choir and bless thine inheritance.  
Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
Choir because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.  
Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us;  
Choir and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

#### *The Collect of the Day*

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; Mercifully grant, that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### *The Second Collect, for Peace*

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. Amen.

#### *The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils*

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. Amen.

## **Anthem**

There is an old belief,  
That on some solemn shore,  
Beyond the sphere of grief  
Dear friends shall meet once more.  
Beyond the sphere of Time and Sin  
And Fate's control,  
Serene in changeless prime  
Of body and of soul.  
That creed I fain would keep  
That hope I'll ne'er forgo,  
Eternal be the sleep,  
If not to waken so.

C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)

John Gibson Lockhart (1794-1854)

## **The Prayers**

*Following the Prayers, we say together*

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

the Love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all for evermore. Amen

*Please stand*

**The Hymn** *during which a collection will be taken in support of the Cathedral's mission*



Come, thou Holy Spirit, come,  
And from thy celestial home  
Shed thy light and brilliancy;  
Come, thou Father of the poor,  
Come, thou source of all our store,  
Come, the soul's true radiancy.

Thou of comforters the best,  
Thou the soul's most welcome guest,  
Sweet refreshment here below;  
In our labour rest most sweet,  
Grateful coolness in the heat,  
Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessèd Light divine,  
Shine within these hearts of thine,  
And our inmost being fill;  
Where thou art not, man hath naught,  
Nothing good in deed or thought,  
Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds; our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away;  
Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore ~  
And confess thee, evermore ~  
In thy sevenfold gifts descend:  
Give them virtue's sure reward,  
Give them thy salvation, Lord,  
Give them joys that never end.

Tune: Veni Sancte Spiritus  
Samuel Webbe (1740–1816)

Latin 13th century  
trans. Edward Caswall (1814–78)

## The Blessing

*The service concludes with the procession of the clergy and choir.*

*Please sit for the Organ voluntary*

Fantasia and Fugue in G C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)



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