

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity  
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH  
DUBLIN**



**Sunday 10 December 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**

*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**

Bernard Rose (1916-1996)

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

I waited patiently for the Lord :  
and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling.  
He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay :  
and set my feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings.  
And he hath put a new song in my mouth :  
even a thanksgiving unto our God.  
Many shall see it, and fear :  
and shall put their trust in the Lord.  
Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord :  
and turned not unto the proud, and to such as go about with lies.  
O Lord my God, great are the wondrous works which thou hast done, like as be also thy  
thoughts which are to us-ward :  
and yet there is no man that ordereth them unto thee:  
If I should declare them, and speak of them :  
they should be more than I am able to express.  
Sacrifice and meat-offering thou wouldest not :  
but mine ears hast thou opened.  
Burnt-offerings, and sacrifice for sin, hast thou not required :  
then said I, Lo, I come,  
In the volume of the book it is written of me, that I should fulfil thy will, O my God :  
I am content to do it; yea, thy law is within my heart.  
I have declared thy righteousness in the great congregation :  
lo, I will not refrain my lips, O Lord, and that thou knowest.  
I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart :  
my talk hath been of thy truth and of thy salvation.  
I have not kept back thy loving mercy and truth :  
from the great congregation.  
Withdraw not thou thy mercy from me, O Lord :  
let thy loving-kindness and thy truth alway preserve me.  
For innumerable troubles are come about me; my sins have taken such hold upon me that  
I am not able to look up :  
yea, they are more in number than the hairs of my head, and my heart hath failed me.  
O Lord, let it be thy pleasure to deliver me :  
make haste, O Lord, to help me.  
Let them be ashamed and confounded together, that seek after my soul to destroy it :  
let them be driven backward and put to rebuke, that wish me evil.  
Let them be desolate, and rewarded with shame :  
that say unto me, Fie upon thee, fie upon thee.  
Let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad in thee :  
and let such as love thy salvation say alway, The Lord be praised.  
As for me, I am poor and needy :  
but the Lord careth for me.  
Thou art my helper and redeemer :  
make no long tarrying, O my God. *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 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 T Noble (1867-1953) Evening Service in B minor

## **The Second Lesson – Romans 15: 4-13**

### **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 Lord, Raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, world without end. 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**

Tollite portas, principes, vestras, et elevamini, portæ æternales,

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:*

*et introibit rex gloriæ.*

*and the King of glory shall come in.*

*Quis ascendet in montem Domini? Aut quis stabit in loco sancto eius?*

*Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place?*

*Innocens manibus et mundo corde. Alleluia*

*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart. Alleluia*

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Gradual for Votive Mass of Mary during Advent

## 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*



Lift up your heads ye mighty gates,  
Behold the King of glory waits,  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Saviour of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed;  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes

Come then, O Saviour, and abide,  
Our hearts to thee be open wide;  
May all thy inward presence feel,  
To all thy grace and love reveal.

Tune: Wareham  
melody by William Knapp (c. 1698-1768)

Georg Weissel (1590-1635)  
trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

## The Blessing

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

*Please sit for the Organ voluntary*

*'Gottes Sohn ist kommen' JS Bach (1685-1750)*



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