

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity
commonly called

CHRIST CHURCH DUBLIN



Sunday 4 February 2024

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

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

"Jesu dulcis memoria" Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

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

Save me, O God :

for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.

I stick fast in the deep mire, where no ground is :

I am come into deep waters, so that the floods run over me.

I am weary of crying; my throat is dry :

my sight faileth me for waiting so long upon my God.

They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head :

they that are mine enemies, and would destroy me guiltless, are mighty.

I paid them the things that I never took :

God, thou knowest my simpleness, and my faults are not hid from thee.

Let not them that trust in thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my cause :

let not those that seek thee be confounded through me, O Lord God of Israel.

And why? for thy sake have I suffered reproof :

shame hath covered my face.

I am become a stranger unto my brethren :

even an alien unto my mother's children.

For the zeal of thine house hath even eaten me :

and the rebukes of them that rebuked thee are fallen upon me.

I wept, and chastened myself with fasting :

and that was turned to my reproof.

I put on sackcloth also :

and they jested upon me.

They that sit in the gate speak against me :

and the drunkards make songs upon me.

But, Lord, I make my prayer unto thee :

in an acceptable time.

Hear me, O God, in the multitude of thy mercy :

even in the truth of thy salvation.

Take me out of the mire, that I sink not :

O let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.

Let not the water-flood drown me, neither let the deep swallow me up :

and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

Hear me, O Lord, for thy loving-kindness is comfortable :

turn thee unto me according to the multitude of thy mercies.

And hide not thy face from thy servant, for I am in trouble :

O haste thee, and hear me.

Draw nigh unto my soul, and save it :

O deliver me, because of mine enemies.

Thou hast known my reproof, my shame, and my dishonour :

mine adversaries are all in thy sight.

Thy rebuke hath broken my heart; I am full of heaviness :

I looked for some to have pity on me, but there was no man,
neither found I any to comfort me.

They gave me gall to eat :

and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

As for me, when I am poor and in heaviness :

thy help, O God, shall lift me up.

I will praise the Name of God with a song :

and magnify it with thanksgiving.

This also shall please the Lord :

better than a bullock that hath horns and hoofs.

The humble shall consider this, and be glad :

seek ye after God, and your soul shall live.
For the Lord heareth the poor :
and despiseth not his prisoners.
Let heaven and earth praise him :
the sea, and all that moveth therein.
For God will save Sion, and build the cities of Judah :
that men may dwell there, and have it in possession.
The posterity also of his servants shall inherit it :
and they that love his Name shall dwell therein.

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 – Numbers 22: 21 – 23: 12

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

Edward C Bairstow (1874-1946) Evening Service in D

The Second Lesson – Philippians 4: 10-20

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.

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

If the Lord had not helped me,
It had not failed but my soul had been put to silence.
But when I said, My foot hath slipt,
Thy mercy, O Lord, held me up.

In the multitude of the sorrows that I had in my heart,
Thy comforts O Lord have refreshed my soul.
For the Lord is my refuge,
And my God is the strength of my confidence

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

Psalm 94: 17-19, 22

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*



Jesu, my Lord, my God, my All
Hear me, blest Saviour, when I call;
Hear me, and from thy dwelling-place
Pour down the riches of thy grace.
Jesu, my Lord, I thee adore,
O make me love thee more and more.

Jesu, too late I thee have sought,
How can I love thee as I ought?
And how extol thy matchless fame,
The glorious beauty of thy Name?
Jesu, my Lord, I thee adore,
O make me love thee more and more.

Jesu, what didst thou find in me,
That thou hast dealt so lovingly?
How great the joy that thou hast brought,
So far exceeding hope or thought!
Jesu, my Lord, I thee adore,
O make me love thee more and more.

Jesu, of thee shall be my song,
To thee my heart and soul belong;
All that I am or have is thine,
And thou, blest Saviour, thou art mine.
Jesu, my Lord, I thee adore,
O make me love thee more and more.

Tune: Stella
English traditional melody

Henry Collins (1827-1919)

The Blessing

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

Please sit for the Organ voluntary