



Office of Choral Evensong

Last Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 25 October

3.30pm



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL
WORSHIP

WELCOME

We welcome you to this beautiful church in the heart of the city; this cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Chester and the core of a Christian community that has worshipped and worked here for over 1100 years. It is a place where the mission of the church to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

Choral Evensong is offered to God on a daily basis; it has been at the heart of worship here from the monastic offices of the Benedictine Community formed here in 1092 and from the Cathedral's foundation in 1541. Worship is part of the *opus Dei* or 'the work of God' - not for its own sake but also in the way that it changes hearts and minds as well as providing space for inner sanctity.

An induction loop system is in operation: hearing aids should be switched to the 'T' position. Please ensure that all mobile telephones and devices are silenced before the service begins. Photography and Recording is not permitted during the service.

'*Cherubim*' is one of the angels from the Quire ceiling directly above the stalls

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand as the Choir and Clergy enter

THE PRECES

The Choir sings the following short intercessory prayers known as Preces

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Name be praised.

THE WELCOME

OFFICE HYMN

The Choir sings

- 1 O Christ who art the Light and Day,
Thou drivest darksome night away!
We know thee as the Light of light,
Illuminating mortal sight.
- 2 All-holy Lord, we pray to thee,
Keep us to-night from danger free;
Grant us, dear Lord, in thee to rest,
So be our sleep in quiet blest.
- 3 And while the eyes soft slumber take,
Still be the heart to thee awake;
Be thy right hand upheld above
Thy servants resting in thy love.
- 4 O strong defender, be thou nigh
To bid the powers of darkness fly;
Keep us from sin, and guide for good
Thy servants purchased by thy blood.

- 5 Remember us, dear Lord, we pray
While in this mortal flesh we stay:
'Tis thou who dost the soul defend—
Be present with us to the end.
- 6 Blest Three in One and One in Three,
Almighty God, we pray to thee
That thou wouldst now vouchsafe to bless
Our fast with fruits of righteousness. Amen

6th century Latin tr. William Copeland (1804-85)

CHRISTE QUI LUX

PSALM 119. 73-104

The Choir sings the appointed Psalm deriving from the wisdom of the Jewish hymn book

- 73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me :
O give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.
- 74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me :
because I have put my trust in thy word.
- 75 I know, O Lord, that thy judgements are right :
and that thou of very faithfulness hast caused me to be troubled.
- 76 O let thy merciful kindness be my comfort :
according to thy word unto thy servant.
- 77 O let thy loving mercies come unto me, that I may live :
for thy law is my delight.
- 78 Let the proud be confounded, for they go wickedly about to destroy me : but
I will be occupied in thy commandments.
- 79 Let such as fear thee, and have known thy testimonies :
be turned unto me.
- 80 O let my heart be sound in thy statutes :
that I be not ashamed.
- 81 My soul hath longed for thy salvation :
and I have a good hope because of thy word.
- 82 Mine eyes long sore for thy word :
saying, O when wilt thou comfort me?
- 83 For I am become like a bottle in the smoke :
yet do I not forget thy statutes.
- 84 How many are the days of thy servant :
when wilt thou be avenged of them that persecute me?
- 85 The proud have digged pits for me :
which are not after thy law.
- 86 All thy commandments are true :
they persecute me falsely; O be thou my help.

- 87 They had almost made an end of me upon earth :
but I forsook not thy commandments.
- 88 O quicken me after thy loving-kindness :
and so shall I keep the testimonies of thy mouth.
- 89 O Lord, thy word :
endureth for ever in heaven.
- 90 Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another :
thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.
- 91 They continue this day according to thine ordinance :
for all things serve thee.
- 92 If my delight had not been in thy law :
I should have perished in my trouble.
- 93 I will never forget thy commandments :
for with them thou hast quickened me.
- 94 I am thine, O save me :
for I have sought thy commandments.
- 95 The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me :
but I will consider thy testimonies.
- 96 I see that all things come to an end :
but thy commandment is exceeding broad.
- 97 Lord, what love have I unto thy law :
all the day long is my study in it.
- 98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies :
for they are ever with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than my teachers :
for thy testimonies are my study.
- 100 I am wiser than the aged :
because I keep thy commandments.
- 101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way :
that I may keep thy word.
- 102 I have not shrunk from thy judgements :
for thou teachest me.
- 103 O how sweet are thy words unto my throat :
yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth.
- 104 Through thy commandments I get understanding :
therefore I hate all evil ways.

All 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.

All sit for the First Lesson from the Old Testament

THE FIRST LESSON

Ecclesiastes 11 & 12

All stand

THE MAGNIFICAT

The Choir sings the Song of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1.46-55) which speaks of her faith and response to the call to be the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world

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.

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.

All sit for the Second Lesson from the New Testament

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Timothy 2. 1-7

All stand

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

The Choir sings the Song of the prophet Simeon (Luke 2. 29-32) in greeting the Christ Child and speaking of Jesus, as the fulfilment of expectation of the Messiah, the Christ

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.

Remain standing and face East towards the High Altar to affirm the Christian Faith

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 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.**

THE LESSER LITANY

The Choir sings the Responses and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

All sit or kneel

Let us pray.
Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

RESPONSES

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

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE 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 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.

THE ANTHEM

The Choir sings the Anthem

If ye love me

Thomas Tallis

THE INTERCESSIONS

Prayers for the Church and the world are said; at the end, all say

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

The Clergy and Choir leave; all then sit for the Organ Voluntary

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

