

THE GATHERING

Priscilla – Silvia Dimitrova



'Priscilla' by Silvia Dimitrova (2013), the seventh in the series, 'Women in the Bible' commissioned by Graham and Alison Kings, which are all part of the 'Global Images of Christ' exhibition in the Cathedral till 30 Oct. The paintings may also be seen online: grahamkings.org

WELCOME

We welcome to Chester Cathedral! It is a place where the mission of the church is to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

Seating and Safety

Please respect the spaces of others and if you'd avoid being too close to others, then take a RED RESERVED sign and place this on the seat next to you.

The wearing of Masks is still encouraged to uphold everyone's safety. Please wear a mask when singing the hymns.

Order of Service

We're a paperless Cathedral and are working environmentally to avoid wasting paper. The service can be downloaded to your device at <https://chestercathedral.com/services-and-sermons/>

Alternatively, a summary of the service with the Hymns, readings and responses are available on the screens

WELCOME

Receiving Communion

We warmly invite Christians of all denominations to come and receive bread at the distribution of Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available - please indicate to the priest if you require one. Those who prefer not to receive are invited either to come forward for a blessing or to remain in their seats.

Giving in thanks

Due to Covid restrictions, there is no collection taken; donations can be left in the giving box at the back, via the Donation Contactless Machines or on line www.justgiving.com/campaign/ChesterCathedral

THE GATHERING

- 1 Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.
- 2 Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to humankind
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

THE GATHERING

4 Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

John Marriott (1780-1825)

MOSCOW
Felice di Giardini (1716-96)

THE GATHERING

Greeting

The President says

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Opening Responses

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.
I have sworn and will fulfil it.
to keep your righteous judgements.
I am troubled above measure
**give me life, O Lord, according to
your word.**

Accept the freewill offering of my mouth,
O Lord,
and teach me your judgements.

cf Psalm 119 (105-8)

THE GATHERING

Prayers of Penitence

The Deacon introduces the Confession and all then respond

The word of God is living and active.
It judges the thoughts
and intentions of the heart.
All is open and laid bare
before the eyes of him
to whom we give account.

cf Hebrews 4.12

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

May your loving mercy come to me,
O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light to my path:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

O let your mercy come to me
that I may live,
for your law is my delight:
Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

THE GATHERING

Absolution

The President says

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins and make you holy
to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GATHERING

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens, Domine fili unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, agnus Dei, filius patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum sancto spiritu, in Gloria Dei patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE GATHERING

Collect

The President says

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
18.1-4, 24-28.

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

- 1 God in his wisdom, for our learning
gave his inspired and holy word:
promise of Christ, for our discerning,
by which our souls are moved and
stirred,
finding our hearts within us burning
when, as of old, his voice is heard.
- 2 Symbol and story, song and saying,
life-bearing truths for heart and mind,
God in his sovereign grace displaying
tenderest care for humankind,
Jesus our Lord this love portraying,
open our eyes to seek and find.
- 3 Come then with prayer and
contemplation,
see how in Scripture Christ is known;
wonder anew at such salvation
here in these sacred pages shown;
lift every heart in adoration,
children of God by grace alone!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me

will never walk in darkness

but will have the light of life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John. 5. 36b - end

Glory to you, O Lord.

But I have a testimony greater than John's.

The works that the Father has given me to
complete, the very works that I am doing,

testify on my behalf that the Father has

sent me. And the Father who sent me has

himself testified on my behalf. You have

never heard his voice or seen his form, and

you do not have his word abiding in you,

because you do not believe him whom he

has sent.

'You search the scriptures because you

think that in them you have eternal life; and

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally
begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from
the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection
of the dead,
and the life of the world
to come. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit
and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

*After each petition
the following response may be used*

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

At the end

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Peace

The President says

We are all one in Christ Jesus
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

cf Galatians 3. 28

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Preparation of the Altar

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer
our sacrifice of praise. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The President continues

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks,
broke it and said:

This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;

he took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Therefore, Father,
with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us
and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts
we may feed on Christ with opened eyes
and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour

and glory and power

be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Breaking of the Bread

The President says

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Agnus Dei

The choir sings

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

Communion Motet

Steel Away *Michael Tippett (1905-98)*

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Post Communion Prayer

The President says

Let us pray.

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people
with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever. **Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

Go now in peace,
knowing that you have been born again,
not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,
through the living
and enduring word of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

- 1 You're the Word of God the Father,
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice:
let the skies declare Your glory,
let the land and seas rejoice!
- 2 Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry,
with a word You stilled the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered
that the guilty may go free.
- 3 With a shout You rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven
leading captives in Your wake.
Now You stand before the Father
interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading us to heaven.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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