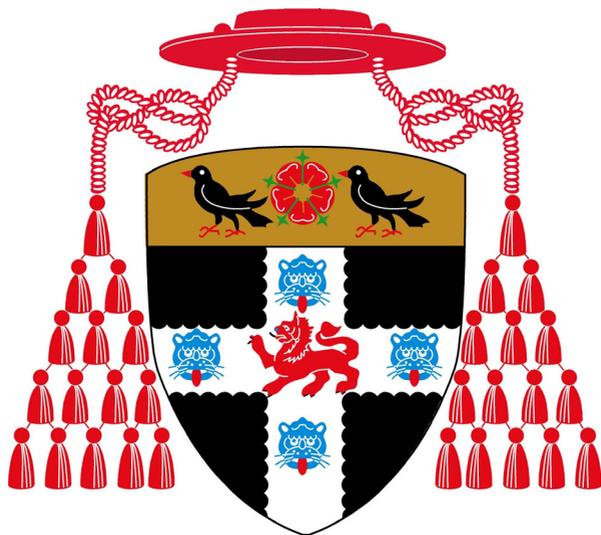


Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD



VALEDICTORY EVENSONG

Sunday 5 July 2020

This evening, as we come to the end of this strangest of academic years, we say farewell to those who are leaving the choral foundation: six choristers from Form 8, two lay clerks, and two academical clerks. We are very proud of all the members of our choir, both children and adults, and it's always a highlight of the year when we gather to celebrate all that they've achieved and send those who are leaving on their way with blessing. Although we are still unable to gather for large-scale services and to sing together in worship, we nevertheless celebrate and give thanks for the choir's vital role in our liturgical life.

The music in this service includes three commissioned pieces from Piers Connor Kennedy, one of our lay clerks, setting Psalm 137 and the Evening Canticles. Piers's notes on this new music can be found on p. 14 of this booklet; we are delighted to premiere these pieces, which have been recorded and mixed by the members of the choir in their homes. The anthem, an arrangement of the traditional Amazing Grace by Steven Grahl, was also recorded remotely by our choristers and clerks. Other music in the service is taken from archive recordings.

May God come to meet you with blessing as you join us for this service.

Organ Music before the Service

Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ (BWV 623) *JS Bach (1685–1750)*
played by the Sub Organist, Benjamin Sheen

Sentence

How can we thank God enough for you, in return for all the joy
that we feel before our God because of you?

1 Thessalonians 3:9

Welcome

Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean

Hymn

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

WORDS: *Martin Rinkart (1586–1649),
transl. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)*

MUSIC: *Nun Danket, Johann Crüger (c.1647)*

The Versicles and Responses

Setting: Bernard Rose (1916–1996)

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

Psalm 137

Super flumina

Setting: Piers Connor Kennedy (b. 1991)

- 1 By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept :
when we remembered thee, O Sion.
- 2 As for our harps, we hanged them up :
upon the trees that are therein.
- 3 For they that led us away captive required of us then a song,
and melody in our heaviness :
Sing us one of the songs of Sion.
- 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song : in a strange land?
- 5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem :
let my right hand forget her cunning.
- 6 If I do not remember thee,
let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth :
yea, if I prefer not Jerusalem in my mirth.
- 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12

*read by Christopher O'Leary and Orlando Jones,
Academical Clerks*

You will say on that day:
I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Magnificat

Setting: Piers Connor Kennedy (b. 1991)

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

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.

(Luke 1:46–55)

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.

New Testament Reading

Philippians 1: 1–11

read by Piers Connor Kennedy and Tim Parsons,

Lay Clerks

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Nunc dimittis

Setting: Kennedy

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.

(Luke 2:29–32)

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

All

**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 Preces and Responses

Setting: Rose

Minister The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Minister Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir 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.

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Minister O Lord, save the Queen.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. 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 Evening Collect

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.

Thanksgiving

The Organist introduces the Choristers and Clerks who have come to the end of their time in the Choir. When we are able, there will be a service of thanksgiving and valediction to bless them for their onward journey.

The Dean thanks those who are leaving the choir, and continues:

Let us pray with gratitude:

God of majesty,
whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
we give you thanks for all your servants
who make music for your people
for those who have served you in our Cathedral Church
and for those whose time here draws to an end.
For their ministry, their talent
and their commitment, we praise you;
for all that they have shared with us, we thank you;
and until we meet again,
into your hands we commend them;
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
through whom all things were made.
Amen.

Anthem

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been here ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

WORDS: John Newton (1725-1807)

MUSIC: *traditional, arr Steven Grahl (b. 1979)*

Prayers

*led by the Revd Philippa White,
Succentor and School Chaplain*

The prayers end with the Prayer for the House, and the Grace.

Almighty and everlasting God,
the source of goodness and truth,
hear our prayer for those to whom you have committed the
guidance of this House, for its former and present members
and for all those who work within it.

Enlighten us with your Spirit
and give us grace to serve you in righteousness
and rejoice in your presence for all eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All

**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 Blessing

The Dean

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth,
and all humankind, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

Organ Music after the Service

Grand Choeur Dialogué

Eugène Gigout (1844–1925)

recorded remotely by the Organists of Christ Church.

Notes on the Music

Composing for voice always involves pragmatism – composing for choirs possibly more so, where managing a plethora of contingencies is a prerequisite. Composing choral music to be recorded remotely, then – and within the context of Anglican worship, too – presents an even greater wealth of considerations. Therein lies the challenge, and also the fun.

In these settings of Psalm 137 and the Evening Canticles, respectively – commissioned by Steven Grahl in May specifically for this evensong broadcast – I have attempted foremost to present music which conjures something of the essence of Anglican worship, which feels a descendant of the great choral tradition of this country. I have also sought to present something of the teleology inherent within the shape of the Evensong service, and in particular within the contours of this Psalm, which speaks of a despair to which we can all relate, giving way to the lauding of the Magnificat, and the reflection of the Nunc Dimittis. So, too, is the Psalm setting matched with Prof. Grahl's arrangement of Amazing Grace in the key of A flat major, providing buttresses against which the elevated A major of the canticles rests in an arch. In addition, I have tried to write music that in some way enables the particular character of this wonderful choir to present itself, and I hope in the more spritely passagework you can hear the effervescence which usually fills the Cathedral. The practicalities of the remote recording process can be seen in the solo-led structure of the Psalm, and in the canticles where the interplay of organ and piano act as metronomic ostinati – musical legacies of this time in lockdown.

Perhaps above all, this commission is a celebration of the many ways in which music and worship, whether or not we are together in body, brings us together in spirit.

Piers Connor Kennedy

Musicians

Steven Grahl
Benjamin Sheen
Simon Hogan
Benjamin Collyer
Samuel Mitchell

Organist
Sub Organist
Organist to the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church
Organ Scholar
Piano (Canticles)
Lay and Academical Clerks

Michael Ash
Samuel Mitchell
Elizabeth Nurse
Tim Parsons
William Anderson
Charlie Hodgkiss

Orlando Jones
Christopher O'Leary
Piers Kennedy
Thomas McGowan
Christopher Murphy
Thomas Rayner

Choristers

Maxwell Decardi-Nelson
Archie Edbury
Alexander Olleson
Lukas Siemens
Gaspard Wenger
Alexander Winniffrith
Orlando Beesley
William O'Hagan
Thomas Sear
Luca Taylor

Benjamin Docherty-Wheatley
Hamish Mowbray
Pascal Siemens
Dominic Turner
James Warren
Merlin Wenger
Kit Lambert
Florian Siemens
Felix Somerville

Probationers

Martin Dancer
William Kirkman

Jonathon Silk
William Smyth

DEPARTING MEMBERS OF THE CHORAL FOUNDATION

MAXWELL DECARDI-NELSON

ARCHIE EDBURY

ALEXANDER OLLESON

LUKAS SIEMENS

GASPARD WENGER

ALEXANDER WINNIFRITH

Choristers

CHRISTOPHER O'LEARY

ORLANDO JONES

Academical Clerks

PIERS CONNOR KENNEDY

TIM PARSONS

Lay Clerks

Acknowledgements

Some music during this service is taken from archive recordings by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, conducted by Dr Stephen Darlington:

Now thank we all our God ©Griffin Records, 'Favourite Hymns from Oxford'

Rose Preces and Responses ©Griffin Records, 'Evensong from Oxford'

Other music has been recorded remotely by the Choir for this service. Choristers have been taught during this past term by Steven Grahl, Benjamin Sheen, Simon Hogan, Michael Ash, Charlie Hodgkiss, Sam Mitchell, Elizabeth Nurse, and Tim Parsons. Audio and Video editing has been undertaken by William Anderson, Christopher Murphy and Thomas Rayner.

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With thanks to Nick Clarke for video editing.