



**A LIVESTREAMED SERVICE
OF CHORAL EVENSONG
TO MARK
THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY
OF NATIONAL LOCKDOWN**

Tuesday 23rd March 2021
7.30pm



Music before the Service: Improvisation on 'Crimond' *Eric Thiman (1900-75)*

OPENING HYMN (ICH 666):



**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

**Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then shalt thou better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay,
from his own fullness, all he takes away.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrows forgot, love's purest ways restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

*Words: Katharina von Schlegel (1752) tr. Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-97)
Tune: FINLANDIA Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)*

OPENING RESPONSES: *David Terry (b.1975)*

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 Ghost.

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.

*The choir sings the **PSALM: 23** chant by Sir Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

The Lord is my shepherd:

therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture:

and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul:

and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:

thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord 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.

FIRST LESSON: Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is bereft of peace;

I have forgotten what happiness is;

so I say, 'Gone is my glory,

and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.'

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness

is wormwood and gall!

My soul continually thinks of it

and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind,

and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,

'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,

to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

*The choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT**: Fauxbourdon Service Matthew Owens (b.1971)*

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.

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.

SECOND LESSON: I Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*The choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS**: Fauxbourdon Service Matthew Owens (b.1971)*

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.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION - *The Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast*

SILENCE OF REMEMBRANCE

Cantor: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Cantor: 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.

Cantor: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor: O Lord, save the Queen.

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.

COLLECT OF ALL SOULS' DAY:

O Eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: we beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into the fullness of thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir: Amen.

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.

Choir: Amen.

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.

Choir: Amen.

*The choir sings the **ANTHEM:** Pie Jesu (from Requiem) Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)*

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem.

Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest.

Dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem.

Grant them rest, eternal rest.

*Please kneel or sit for the **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:***

Let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death:

Jesus, bread from heaven, you satisfy the hungry with good things: grant us a share with all the faithful departed in the banquet of your kingdom. We remember with love and gratitude all the lives lost during this past twelve months and commend their loved ones to your care and protection.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, the light of the world, you gave the man born blind the gift of sight: open the eye of faith and bring us from darkness to your eternal light and glory. May we see through all the pain of this past year that your guiding presence has always been with us, and in the darkest places your love shines brightest.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, Son of the living God, you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life: raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you. Bless all who have provided medical and nursing care throughout the twelve months of this pandemic, in our land and across the world, and guide all involved in the development and provision of vaccines. Give to each courage, compassion and endurance in the face of unremitting pressures.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, crucified Saviour, in your dying you entrusted each to the other, Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple: sustain and comfort all who mourn. Bless every family touched by bereavement since last March and remembered in this service. Give the gift of good memories and the healing of traumatic ones, that we may not lose hope. We pray for all who work in bereavement care, pastoral support and psychological therapies, remembering particularly the work of Marie Curie on this day.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, our way and truth and life, you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith: reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost. We commend to your mercy those who struggle with their physical, mental or spiritual health, and those who support them. May we strive for patience, kindness, respect, empathy and care for those whose lives intertwine with ours, doing what we can to spread comfort and encouragement.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life.**

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

*All respond: **Amen.***

A PRAYER DURING THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all who care for the sick, and those suffering from or recovering from Coronavirus. Stand with those who grieve. Give your strength to all who, though exhausted, work in hospitals and nursing homes, and all who give care in the community. Guide all who seek to understand the new variants of the infection, and those who are administering the vaccines. Give wisdom to those who have responsibility in church, politics and society for leading a way out of the current Lockdown. This we ask in the name of the one who spent himself in service of others with no thought for himself, even our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All respond: **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM:

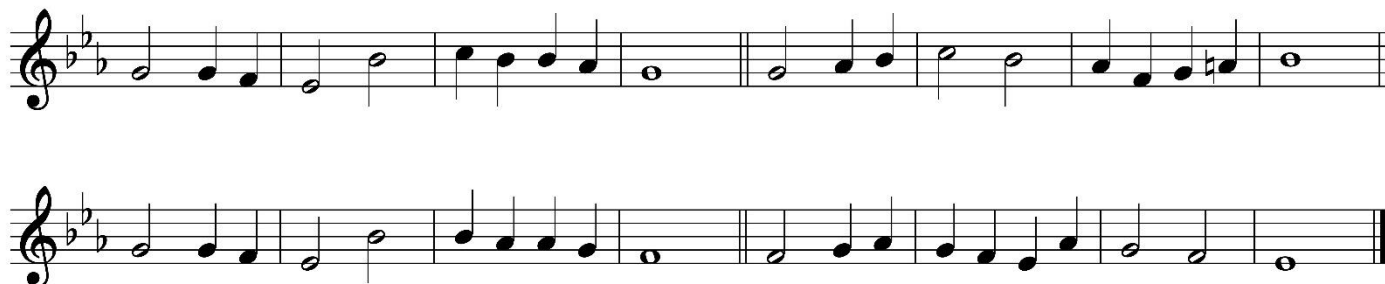
Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

All respond: **Amen.**

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

All respond: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN (ICH 62):

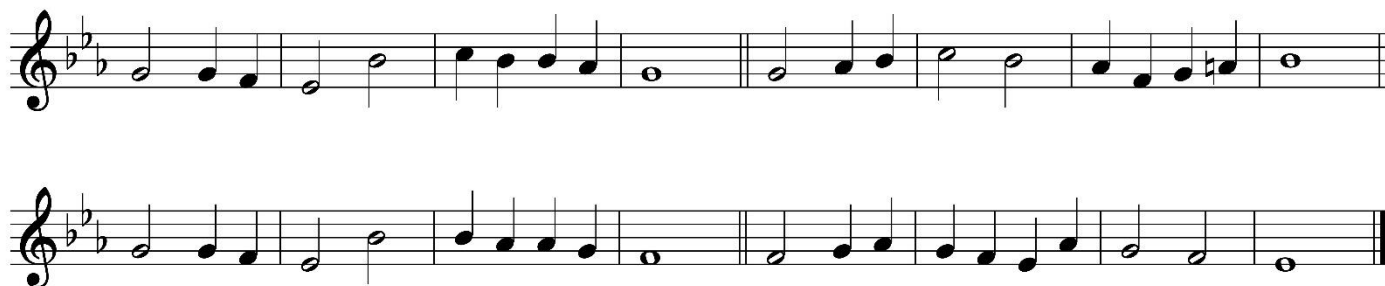


**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide;
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**



**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord abide with me.**

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Tune: EVENTIDE William Henry Monk (1823-89)

Please remain standing as the Dean pronounces **THE BLESSING:**

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Response: **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Solemn Melody *Sir Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*



You can access the content of Lives Reflected at

www.livesreflected.com

There you will find stories of various experiences of individuals over recent months and the memorial section, which includes tributes to those who died during this time.

Should you wish to add a tribute to your loved one please do so by submitting the online form.

Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.

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