



# CHORAL EVENSONG TO MARK THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELFAST BLITZ



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
5.30pm**

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast. Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens. We ask you to wear a face covering throughout your visit. Under government guidance for the purposes of keeping Contact Tracing Records it is essential that you complete the following information. Please place this service sheet **IN THE BOX AT WEST END** as you leave at the end of the service. These will be retained for 21 days, after which they will be destroyed. Thank you.

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone contact:** \_\_\_\_\_



The Lord Mayor of Belfast, the Right Honourable Alderman Frank McCoubrey,  
and the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Sir Nigel Hamilton KCB,  
will be welcomed by the Dean before the start of the service.

*On the arrival of the Vice Lord Lieutenant, the congregation is asked to stand  
until after the playing of the National Anthem*

*Please stand at the entrance of the clergy*

*The service begins with the sound of an Air Raid Warning*

*The choir sings the **INTROIT:***

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:  
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
we will remember them.

*Words: Binyon's Ode  
Music: Douglas Guest (1916-96)*

*The Dean welcomes the congregation and introduces the service*

*Please remain standing for the **OPENING RESPONSES:** setting by Richard Ayleward (1626–69)*

*Priest: O Lord, open thou our lips.*

*Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

*Priest: O God, make speed to save us.*

*Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.*

*Priest: 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.*

*Priest: Praise ye the Lord.*

*Choir: The Lord's name be praised.*

*Please sit while 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.

*Please stand for the* **GLORIA:**

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 for the* **FIRST LESSON:** Daniel 3:16-26

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defence to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counsellors, 'Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?' They answered the king, 'True, O king.' He replied, 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.' Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!' So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

*Please remain seated as the choir sings the* **MAGNIFICAT:** Third Service Philip Moore (b.1943)

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.

*Please stand for the **GLORIA:***

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 for the **SECOND LESSON:** Revelation 7:9-17*

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honour  
and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’

For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;  
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

*Please remain seated as the choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS**: Third Service Philip Moore (b.1943)*

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 for the **GLORIA**:*

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.

*Standing, we face east to recite 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.**

*Priest: The Lord be with you.*

*Choir: And with thy spirit.*

*Priest: Let us pray.*

*Please kneel or sit*

*Priest:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Choir:* Christ, have mercy upon us.

*Priest:* 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.

*Priest:* O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*Choir:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Priest:* O Lord, save the Queen.

*Choir:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Priest:* Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*Choir:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Priest:* O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Priest:* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Choir:* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Priest:* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## **COLLECT OF COMMEMORATION**

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal 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:***

Justorum animae in manu Dei  
sunt, et non tanget illos  
tormentum malitiae.

Visi sunt oculis insipientium  
mori: Illi autem sunt in pace.

*The souls of the righteous are in the  
hands of God, and the torment of  
malice shall not touch them:*

*They seem in the eyes of the foolish to  
be dead, but they are at peace.*

*Words from Wisdom 3:1-3*

*Music: Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

## **THREE ACCOUNTS OF THE BELFAST BLITZ**

From the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum Oral Histories Project

*Please kneel or sit for the **OCCASIONAL PRAYERS***

*The prayers conclude with the **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.***



Please stand to sing the **HYMN: ICH 502**



**God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind  
how hate and war diminish humankind,  
we pause - and seek in worship to increase  
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.**

**Hallow our will as humbly we recall  
the lives of those who gave and give their all.  
We thank you, Lord, for women, children, men  
who seek to serve in love, today as then.**

**Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,  
high hope to share with all the newly born,  
strong love in our pursuit of human worth:  
'lest we forget' the future of this earth.**

**So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,  
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.  
May we, im-passioned by your living Word,  
remember forward to a world restored.**

*Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)*

*Tune: THE SUPREME SACRIFICE Charles Harris (1865-1936)*

*Please remain standing*

### **THE BLESSING**

May the God of peace bless our memories, heal our divisions, and lead us into his light and love: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

*All respond: **Amen.***

*Please remain standing for the departure of the clergy, the Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Belfast and the Lord Mayor of Belfast.*

**Organ Voluntary:** Adagio in E major Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

*Please remain in your place until the Churchwardens direct you to move. We ask that members of the congregation exit the building straight away and do not congregate on the west steps. Thank you.*

## COMING SOON

The Northern Ireland War Memorial and National Museums Northern Ireland are creating a new audio and visual Walking Tour which leads you through an often untold history of Belfast's Cathedral Quarter.

Visit [www.niwarmemorial.org](http://www.niwarmemorial.org) for further details and pick up a map from the following locations soon:

- Belfast Cathedral
- Northern Ireland War Memorial
- Ulster Museum
- Belfast City Hall



*In April and May 1941 four Luftwaffe air raids brought the Second World War to Belfast. Heavy bombing in the city centre left the face of Belfast changed forever.*



With images from the Belfast Telegraph, this service has been prepared in partnership with:

NORTHERN IRELAND   
**WAR MEMORIAL**  
 MUSEUM