



CHORAL EVENSONG
The Sunday before Lent
Sunday 27th February 2022

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast. Following the downgrading of Covid restrictions to guidelines we respectfully ask you to wear a face covering when inside the building during the service, but especially when singing the hymns. Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens.

Organ Prelude: Fantasy on 'Lumetto' *Kenneth Leighton (1929-88)*

Please stand to sing **HYMN 668***:



**God is our fortress and our rock,
our mighty help in danger;
who shields us from the battle's shock
and thwarts the devil's anger:
for still the prince of night
prolongs his evil fight;
he uses every skill
to work his wicked will—
no earthly force is like him.**

**The word of God will not be slow
while demon hordes surround us,
though evil strike its cruellest blow
and death and hell confound us:
for even if distress
should take all we possess,
and those who mean us ill
should ravage, wreck, or kill,
God's kingdom is immortal.**

*Words: Michael Perry (1942-96) after Martin Luther (1483-1546) based on Psalm 46
Tune NEH 444: EIN' FESTE BERG Melody compiled or composed in 1529 by Martin Luther (1483-1546) harm.
mostly J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Please remain standing for the **OPENING RESPONSES:**

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.

Setting: Howard Skempton (b.1947)

Please sit while the choir sings **PSALM 128:**

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord:
and walk in his ways.

For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands:

O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.

Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine:
upon the walls of thine house.

Thy children like the olive-branches:
round about thy table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed:
that feareth the Lord.

The Lord from out of Sion shall so bless thee:
that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long.

Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children:
and peace upon 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.

Chant: George Bennett (1863-1930)

*Please sit for the **FIRST LESSON:** Exodus 3:1-6*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

*Please remain seated as the choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT:***

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.

Setting: Second Service, Kenneth Leighton (1929-88)

Please sit for the **SECOND LESSON:** John 12:27-36a

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’

Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, ‘We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’

Please remain seated as the choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS:**

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.

Setting: Second Service, Kenneth Leighton (1929-88)

Please remain standing and 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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee; Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

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:**

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;
such a Way as gives us breath,
such a Truth as ends all strife,
such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;
such a Light as shows a Feast,
such a Feast as mends in length,
such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;
such a Joy as none can move,
such a Love as none can part,
such a Heart as joys in love.

*Words: The Reverend George Herbert (1593-1633), who today is remembered by the worldwide Anglican
Communion*

Music: David Cooper (1949-2002)

Please kneel or sit for the **PRAYERS**, which conclude with **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.**

Please stand to sing **HYMN 103***:



**O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,
unchanging still, amid the passing years—
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks to you for all our yesterdays.**

**O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks to you for all that is to be.**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Tune NEH 258: LONDONDERRY AIR Irish traditional melody from Limavady, Co. Londonderry

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.**

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Postlude: Scherzo, Op. 41, ii *Kenneth Leighton (1929-88)*



NOTICES



Ash Wednesday, 2 March 2022, 7.30pm

You are invited to start the season of Lent with a Penitential Service with
imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Preacher: The Dean

Lent Contemplative Prayer

As part of your Lenten preparation, why not join us in the Chapel of Unity on the first 5 Fridays of Lent to explore Contemplative Prayer? Whether or not this is something you are familiar with, it is a great opportunity to experience it for yourself. Sessions will be led by former Dean's Vicar, Canon Raymond Fox, and will consist of some liturgical prayer followed by periods of contemplative prayer. Friday 4, 11, 18, 25 March and 1 April, 10.30-11.30am.

As you leave, please remember to make your Free Will Offering contribution to support the ongoing work and life of Belfast Cathedral, or give via online banking to: Account Name: "Parochial No 1 Current Account", Sort Code: 90-21-27, Account Number: 10006051

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

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