



CIVIC SERVICE

**Welcoming the Deputy Lord Mayor
and the Freemen of Oxford**

Sunday 21st April 2024, 10:30am

FROM earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world. By the fourth century, if not earlier, morning and evening had emerged as pre-eminent hours for the offering of this sacrifice of praise. They have remained so ever since, especially on Sundays when the Church commemorates both the first day of creation and the day of Christ's resurrection.

The services of Morning and Evening Prayer help us take part in this privilege and duty which belongs to all God's people. It is the former service which we use this morning.

The service brings together Scripture, music and the prayers of the people. In the **psalms**, with their reflections on the past and urgent expressions of personal and corporate anxiety or delight, we find ourselves in relationship with God through the words of our forebears. We reply to each of our Scripture readings with a **song (or canticle)**, the *Te Deum laudamus* (an early hymn of praise) and the *Jubilate Deo* (Psalm 100), both telling the story of God's dealings with his people. The **versicles and responses** function as an exchange in which the priest moves the people to reply in praise and petition. In the **prayers of intercession**, we bring before God the needs of the world and all people. The whole service is a dialogue between God and his people, and between the present and the tradition which continues to form us.

The tradition represented in this service is historic; yet here we find strong expressions of the manifold and basic feelings about ourselves and God which we share with those whose faith and liturgy we inherit. It is the unhurried shape of this worship which gives us the framework within which our regrets, desires, hopes and gratitude may find space for expression.

Some of this service is sung by the choir. This allows the congregation to listen with greater care as these words are interpreted by others according to the tempi and textures of music. By its power to bring us together, whether as performers or listeners, music takes us to the threshold of the life for which we hope. We are enabled to perform a threefold task: first, patient attention, allowing ourselves the time to listen to these words of narrative and prayer; second, prayer for ourselves and the world; and finally, praise and thanksgiving to almighty God.

Her Late Majesty the Queen once said: "*For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, ... is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.*"

THE FREEMEN OF OXFORD

THE Freemen of Oxford were founded in Saxon times and mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086. At that time, only freemen could vote and trade in Oxford. They were also the only people who could be elected to the town council until 1835. Freemen were men of great power and had owned, grazed and maintained Port Meadow, an ancient area of land given to them by Alfred the Great in return for helping to defend the kingdom against the marauding Danes. Today, the Freemen of Oxford have the right to graze up to 700 animals, and to fish from the banks of the Meadow.

Since they were founded, the Freemen of Oxford have promoted and protected the role of apprenticeships in Oxford. As an historic craft guild organisation that has shaped the city for at least 1100 years, they recognise the contribution that people make to this city to keep it a flourishing place to live, work and play. The annual Freemen Apprentice Awards presents an award to the most outstanding apprentice of each year.

Today we welcome the Lord Mayor of Oxford...., and the Chairman of the Freemen of Oxford, James Smith

The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The service is sung by the Choir of St Michael at the North Gate, conducted by Tom Hammond-Davies, Director of Music.

The organ is played by David Goode

The service is led by The Reverend Anthony Buckley, Vicar at St Michael at the North Gate and City Rector.

The responses are composed by Richard Pantcheff.

At the end of the service, everyone is warmly invited to refreshments in the Parish Room

Morning Prayer

from 'The Book of Common Prayer' (1662)

As the choir and clergy process, we stand to sing

BE thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armour, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Slane

Irish, translated by Mary Byrne

We pray for Children's Church and remain standing

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with

an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

We sit or kneel

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRECES & RESPONSES

O LORD, open thou our lips:
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

We stand

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.

Praise ye the Lord:
The Lord's name be praised.

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (PSALM 95)

O COME, let us ' sing unto the ' Lord : let us heartily rejoice in
the ' strength of ' our sal'vation.

Let us come before his ' presence with ' thanksgiving : and shew
ourselves ' glad in ' him with ' psalms.

For the Lord is a ' great ' God : and a great ' King above ' all ' gods.
In his hand are all the ' corners of the ' earth : and the strength of
the ' hills is ' his ' also.

The sea is his and ' he ' made it : and his hands pre'pared the ' dry '
land.

O come let us worship and ' fall ' down : and kneel be ' fore the '
Lord our ' Maker.

For he is the ' Lord our ' God : and we are the people of his pasture,
and the ' sheep of ' his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice, harden ' not your ' hearts : as in the
provocation, and as in the day of temp'tation ' in the ' wilderness;

When your ' fathers ' tempted ' me : ' proved me, and ' saw my '
works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this gener'ation, and ' said : It is
a people that do err in their hearts, for they ' have not ' known my
' ways;

Unto whom I ' swear in my ' wrath : that they should not ' enter '
into my ' rest.

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.

We remain standing to sing

PSALM 57

BE merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, for my
soul ' trusteth in ' thee : and under the shadow of thy
wings shall be my refuge, until this ' tyranny be ' over-past.

I will call unto the ' most high ' God : even unto the God
that shall perform the cause ' which I ' have in hand.

He shall ' send from ' heaven : and save me from the
reproof of ' him that would ' eat me ' up.

God shall send forth his ' mercy and ' truth : my ' soul is
a'mong ' lions.

And I lie even among the children of men, that are ' set on '
fire : whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their ' tongue a
' sharp ' sword.

Set up thyself O God a'bove the heavens : and thy glory
a'bove ' all the earth.

They have laid a net for my feet, and press-ed ' down my '
soul : they have digged a pit before me, and are fallen into
the ' midst of ' it them'selves.

My heart is fixed, O God, my ' heart is ' fixed : I will ' sing
and ' give ' praise.

Awake up my glory; awake ' lute and ' harp : I myself ' will
a'wake right ' early.

I will give thanks unto thee O Lord a'mong the ' people :
and I will sing unto ' thee a'mong the ' nations.

For the greatness of thy mercy reacheth ' unto the ' heavens
: and thy ' truth ' unto the clouds.

Set up thyself O God, a'bove the 'heavens : and thy glory
a'bove ' all the ' earth.

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.

We sit

THE FIRST LESSON

From the book of Genesis, chapter 45

Read by Councillor Mark Lygo, the Sheriff of Oxford,

And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet
live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were
troubled at his presence. And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near
to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your
brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor
angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me
before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in
the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there
shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to
preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great
deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and
he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a

ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not: and thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast.

The Choir sings the Te Deum laudamus:

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

Music by Stanford

WE praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens and all the Powers therein.
To thee Cherubin, and Seraphin: continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty: of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles: praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets: praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs: praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world: doth acknowledge thee;
The Father: of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true: and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor
the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death: thou didst open
the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the Glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou hast redeemed
with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage.

Govern them: and lift them up for ever.
Day by day: we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name: ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us: have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confound

THE SECOND LESSON

From the First Epistle of St Peter, chapter two
Read by Mr Peter Smith, Chairman of the Freemen of Oxford.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

We stand as the choir sing

JUBILATE DEO (PSALM 100)

Music by Stanford

OBE joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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

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.

PRAYERS

THE Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

We sit or kneel

Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy holy spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

ALMIGHTY God, who shewest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We say together

THE COLLECT FOR GRACE

O LORD, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE ANTHEM
Mendelssohn, Hear my prayer

*Hear my prayer, O God, incline Thine ear!
Thyself from my petition do not hide!
Take heed to me! Hear how in prayer I mourn to Thee!
Without Thee all is dark, I have no guide.
The enemy shouteth, The godless come fast!
Iniquity, hatred upon me they cast!
The wicked oppress me, Ah, where shall I fly?
Perplexed and bewildered, O God, hear my cry!
My heart is sorely pained within my breast,
My soul with deathly terror is oppressed,
Trembling and fearfulness upon me fall,
With horror overwhelmed, Lord, hear me call!
O for the wings of a dove!
Far away would I rove!
In the wilderness build me a nest,
And remain there for ever at rest.*

THE SERMON
The Reverend Anthony Buckley

We stand to sing

THE SONG OF THE FREEMEN OF ENGLAND AND WALES

IN ANCIENT towns throughout the land
Our old traditions will survive
The torch has passed from hand to hand
Our brotherhood is still alive
We cherish still from age to age
Our proud and glorious heritage.

Our rights are precious but we know
They are a trust we may not shirk
For though we reap we still must sow
And pray that God may bless our work
That when our children take the stage
Theirs is a worthy heritage.

Our forbears loved in days long past
These towns in which our roots lie deep
They built traditions made to last
Long after they were laid to sleep
We feel the challenge, and with pride
Vow that their standards shall abide.

So let all Freemen now unite
And work with hearts which ever strive
To build a future still more bright
And keep our Freedom's flame alive
As with God's help, so let it be,
Our strength is in our unity.

Melita

Melody by J. B. Dykes (1823-76)

Elise Dinah Ward (1807-1885)

We sit or kneel

THE INTERCESSIONS

We stand to sing

BLESSÈD

BLESSÈD City, heavenly Salem,
vision dear of peace and love,
who of living stones art builded
in the height of heaven above,
and, with angel hosts encircled,
as a bride dost earthward move;

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Ellacombe

St John of Damascus (d.c.754) tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66)

The Blessing

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

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.



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