

St John's College Chapel



Choral Evensong

in celebration of the
80th Birthday of

Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE

7 May 2016

ORGAN VOLUNTARY BEFORE THE SERVICE

Prelude on 'Amazing Grace'

*Iain Farrington
(b.1977)*

¶ *Stand for the entry of the Choir and Clergy*

The INTROIT sung by the Choir:

A HYMN FOR SAINT CECILIA

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing,
in words of youth and praises of the Spring,
walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray,
and sing as sunlight fills the waking day;
till angels, voyaging in upper air,
pause on a wing and gather the clear sound
into celestial joy, wound and unwound,
a silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth,
in words of music, and each word a truth;
marriage of heart and longings that aspire,
a bond of roses, and a ring of fire.
Your summertime grows short and fades away,
terror must gather to a martyr's death;
but never tremble, the last indrawn breath
remembers music as an echo may.

Through the cold aftermath of centuries,
Cecilia's music dances in the skies;
lend us a fragment of the immortal air,
that with your choiring angels we may share,
a word to light us thro' time-fettered night,
water of life, or rose of paradise,
so from the earth another song shall rise
to meet your own in heaven's long delight.

Words *Ursula Vaughan Williams*
(1911–2007)

Music *Herbert Howells*
(1892–1983)

WELCOME

The Minister and the Choir sing the RESPONSES:

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips

Response And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise

Minister O God, make speed to save us

Response O Lord, make haste to help us

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

Minister Praise ye the Lord

Response The Lord's Name be praised.

Music *Philip Radcliffe*
(1905–1986)

The Choir sings the PSALM:

¶*Remain Standing*

Psalm 36

1. My heart sheweth me the wickedness of the ungodly : that there is no fear of God before his eyes.
2. For he flattereth himself in his own sight : until his abominable sin be found out.
3. The words of his mouth are unrighteous, and full of deceit : he hath left off to behave himself wisely, and to do good.
4. He imagineth mischief upon his bed, and hath set himself in no good way : neither doth he abhor any thing that is evil.
5. Thy mercy, O Lord, reacheth unto the heavens : and thy faithfulness unto the clouds.
6. Thy righteousness standeth like the strong mountains : thy judgements are like the great deep.
7. Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast; How excellent is thy mercy, O God : and the children of men shall put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.
8. They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of thy house : and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures, as out of the river.

9. For with thee is the well of life : and in thy light shall we see light.
10. O continue forth thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee : and thy righteousness unto them that are true of heart.
11. O let not the foot of pride come against me : and let not the hand of the ungodly cast me down.
12. There are they fallen, all that work wickedness : they are cast down, and shall not be able to 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.

Chants *Thomas Norris*
(1741–1790)
George Garrett
(1834–1897)

The FIRST LESSON: Proverbs 11 vv. 1–12

¶ *Sit*

False scales are an abomination to the Lord, but accurate weights win his favour. When pride comes in, in comes contempt, but wisdom goes hand in hand with modesty. Integrity is a guide for the upright; the perfidious are ruined by their own duplicity. Wealth avails naught in the day of wrath, but uprightness is a safeguard against death. By uprightness the blameless keep their course, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. Uprightness saves the righteous, but the perfidious are trapped by their own lies. When someone wicked dies, all his hopes perish. and any expectation of affluence ends. The righteous are rescued from disaster, and the wicked plunge into it. By their words the godless try to ruin others, but when the righteous plead for them they are saved. A city rejoices in the prosperity of the righteous, and when the wicked perish there is jubilation. By the blessing of the upright a city is raised to greatness, but the words of the wicked tear it down. One who belittles others is lacking in sense; someone of understanding holds his peace.

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

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

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.

St Paul's Service
Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

After giving their testimony and speaking the word of the Lord, they took the road back to Jerusalem, bringing the good news to many Samaritan villages on the way.

Then the angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Start out and go south to the road that leads down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is the desert road.) He set out and was on his way when he caught sight of an Ethiopian. This man was a eunuch, a high official of the Kandake, or queen, of Ethiopia, in charge of all her treasure; he had been to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was now returning home, sitting in his carriage and reading aloud from the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go and meet the carriage.’ When Philip ran up he heard him reading from the prophet Isaiah and asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He said, ‘How can I without someone to guide me?’ and invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

The passage he was reading was this: ‘He was led like a sheep to the slaughter; like a lamb that is dumb before the shearer, he does not open his mouth. He has been humiliated and has no redress. Who will be able to speak of his posterity? For he is cut off from the world of the living.’

‘Please tell me’, said the eunuch to Philip, ‘who it is that the prophet is speaking about here: himself or someone else?’ Then Philip began and, starting from this passage, he told him the good news of Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water. ‘Look,’ said the eunuch, ‘here is water: what is to prevent my being baptized?’ and he ordered the carriage to stop. Then they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up from the water the Spirit snatched Philip away; the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip appeared at Azotus, and toured the country, preaching in all the towns till he reached Caesarea.

The Choir sings the NUNC DIMITTIS:

¶*Stand*

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.

*St Paul's Service
Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)*

¶*Remain Standing*

The Congregation, facing East, joins with the Minister in the 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 Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Minister and Choir sing the PRECES:

Minister The Lord be with you.

Response And with thy spirit.

¶ *Kneel*

Minister Let us pray.

Response 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.

Minister O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Response And grant us thy salvation.

Minister O Lord, save the Queen.

Response And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Response And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister O Lord, save thy people.

Response And bless thine inheritance.

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Response And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

There follow three Collects sung by the Minister:

The Collect of the Day

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. 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 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. Amen.

Music *Philip Radcliffe*
(1905–1986)

GIVE UNTO THE LORD

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty,
give unto the Lord glory and strength,
give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thundereth;
the voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
it is the Lord that ruleth the sea.
The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty;
the voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars,
yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon;
yea, the voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire,
yea, the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness,
and strippeth the forests bare.

In His temple doth every one speak of His glory.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
In His temple doth every one speak of His glory.

The Lord sitteth above the waterflood,
and the Lord remaineth a King for ever;
the Lord shall give strength unto His people;
the Lord shall give His people the blessing of peace.

PRAYERS *are said by the Minister.*

¶*Kneel*

The COLLEGE PRAYER:

Bless, O Lord, the work of this College, which is called by the name of thy beloved disciple; and grant that love of the brethren and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of thy people, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The GRACE:

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

HYMN

¶ *Stand*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Words *John Whittier*
(1807–1892)

Tune REPTON
C. Hubert H. Parry
(1848–1918)
Descant *Christopher Robinson*
(b. 1936)

VOLUNTARY

PLAYED BY IAIN FARRINGTON & ROBERT HOUSSART

Finale (E.D.U.)
(Enigma Variations)

Edward Elgar
(1857–1934)
arr. *Iain Farrington*
(b. 1977)

There will be a reception in Hall
following this Service
for invited guests.