

ST EDMUND HALL

Choral Evensong

Quinquagesima



‘Wonder and Love’

Speaker: The Chaplain

14 February 2021

5.30 pm

Evensong in our time: Epiphany and Lent during lockdown

Evensong is one of the Church of England's ancient services. It provides an open and generous space for quiet and reflection, for song and speech and prayer, as it draws from biblical readings, canticles, and the Church's long tradition of hymns.

Our Evensong series this term, 'Wonder and...', takes its cue from the seasons in the Church year. We begin in the season of Epiphany, a time for reflecting on the wonders of God: great events in the life of Christ, the marvels of nature, the miracle of divine activity among the saints of the past and among us today. We will also enter the season of Lent before long, when Christians have typically reflected on 'going back to basics': thinking afresh about faith, hope, love, and other fundamentals; returning to disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity.

This all takes place in the context of lockdown and illness, with its isolation, frustrations, sadness, difficulties, and many strange qualities. The Psalmist in exile said, 'How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?' Perhaps we feel the same. How can we still wonder, still believe, amid these crushing realities? Perhaps Epiphany and Lent have something to teach us. We shall find out together.

*We are nearly all on Zoom. We invite everyone to join in, as they are able, by listening attentively to the choir, readers, and ministers, and by saying together (on mute) those prayers that are marked in **bold**: the Lord's Prayer, the Grace, and the Amens. We would encourage you to sing along, too (on mute).*

Zoom link at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87112377996?pwd=bm9zMWZreEl4M1RiK2toOXNvNW9aZz09>

Cover image: Stained glass of the Union of Sacred Hearts in Nuestra Señora de Covadonga, Mexico City. [Photo](#) by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

SENTENCE (1 JOHN 4:16):

‘God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.’

The chaplain offers words of welcome, followed by the **PRECES & RESPONSES:**

Choir: O Lord, open thou our lips,
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Choir: O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Choir: 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.

Choir: Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord’s name be praised.

Music: Plainsong

The choir sings **PSALM 18:1-6 (DILIGAMTE, DOMINE):**

- 1 I will love thee, O Lord, my strength;
the Lord is my stony rock, and my defence :
my Saviour, my God, and my might, in whom I will trust,
my buckler, the horn also of my salvation, and my refuge.
- 2 I will call upon the Lord, which is worthy to be praised :
so shall I be safe from mine enemies.

- 3 The sorrows of death compassed me :
and the overflowings of ungodliness made me afraid.
- 4 The pains of hell came about me :
the snares of death overtook me.
- 5 In my trouble I will call upon the Lord :
and complain unto my God.
- 6 So shall he hear my voice out of his holy temple :
and my complaint shall come before him,
it shall enter even into his ears.

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.

Music: J. Soaper (1743-1794), adapted

The **FIRST LESSON** (DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9):

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

*The choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT** (LUKE 1:46-55):*

+ 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.

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), setting in G, arr. by
James Whitbourn (1963-) for organ and violin

The **SECOND LESSON** (1 CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:13):

Strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The **NUNC DIMITTIS** (LUKE 2:29-32):

+ 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.

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), setting in G, arr. by
James Whitbourn (1963-) for organ and violin

The **APOSTLES' 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 catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
+ the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The LESSER LITANY:

The Lord be with you.
Choir: And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father,
All: **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.
Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost, 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 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.

Music: Plainsong

The **ADDRESS**

“Wonder and Love”
The Chaplain

The INTERCESSIONS may include this response:

Lord, in thy mercy
All: **hear our prayer.**

Prayers conclude with the GRACE:

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

The Chaplain gives NOTICES and the choir then sings the Hymn JESU, MY LORD, MY GOD, MY ALL (NEH 384):

Jesu, my Lord, my God, my All,
Hear me, blest Saviour, when I call;
Hear me, and from thy dwelling-place
Pour down the riches of thy grace:
*Jesu, my Lord, I thee adore,
O make me love thee more and more.*

Jesu, too late I thee have sought,
How can I love thee as I ought?
And how extol thy matchless fame,
The glorious beauty of thy name?
Jesu, my Lord...

Jesu, what didst thou find in me,
That thou hast dealt so lovingly?
How great the joy that thou hast brought,
So far exceeding hope or thought!
Jesu, my Lord...

Jesu, of thee shall be my song,
To thee my heart and soul belong;
All that I am or have is thine,
And thou, sweet Saviour, thou art mine.
Jesu, my Lord...

Words: Henry Collins (1827-1919)
Music: *Stella*, traditional English melody

The **BLESSING**

The **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

The **COLLECTIONS** this term will go to the charity Shelter, providing relief to those hit hardest by the Covid-19 outbreak. We invite all who can to give generously.

Chapel Activities Online

Evening Prayer, Monday-Thursday (6pm)

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87112377996?pwd=bm9zMWZreEl4M1RiK2toOXNvNW9aZz09>

Credo, Wednesdays (4:30pm)

A short enquirers' course for those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and those interested in learning more about Christian faith. Please contact the Chaplain if you're interested in joining.

Night Prayer at Nine, led by Oxford chaplaincies and the University Church

Every night at 9pm except Saturday. Broadcast from the University Church's [Facebook page](#).