

ST EDMUND HALL

# Choral Evensong

*The Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
Candlemas*



‘Wonder and Knowledge’

Speaker: Prof Henrike Lähnemann

31 January 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: Dominus illuminatio mea. The opening of Psalm 26 in the Medingen Psalter, Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Don. e. 248, fol. 55r.

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

SENTENCE (Ps. 27:10-11):

‘O hide not thou thy face from me, O Lord: nor cast thy servant away in displeasure. Thou hast been my succour: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.’

*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 27:1-6** (*Dominus Illuminatio*):

- 1 THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear :  
the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes,  
came upon me to eat up my flesh :

they stumbled and fell.

- 3    Though an host of men were laid against me,  
      yet shall not my heart be afraid :  
      and though there rose up war against me,  
      yet will I put my trust in him.
- 4    One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require :  
      even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
      all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord,  
      and to visit his temple.
- 5    For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle :  
      yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me,  
      and set me up upon a rock of stone.
- 6    And now shall he lift up mine head :  
      above mine enemies round about me.

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: E.J. Hopkins (1818-1901)

*The* **FIRST LESSON** (Isaiah 60:1-9):

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
    and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
    and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.  
All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you,  
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;  
they shall be acceptable on my altar,  
and I will glorify my glorious house.

Who are these that fly like a cloud,  
and like doves to their windows?  
For the coastlands shall wait for me,  
the ships of Tarshish first,  
to bring your children from far away,  
their silver and gold with them,  
for the name of the Lord your God,  
and for the Holy One of Israel,  
because he has glorified you.

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

*+ Meine Seele erhebt den Herren:  
und mein Geist freuet sich Gottes, meines Heilandes.  
Denn er hat seine elende Magd angesehen:  
siehe, von nun an werden mich selig preisen alle, alle Kindes Kind.  
Denn er hat große Dinge an mir getan:  
der da mächtig ist, und dessen Name heilig ist.  
Und seine Barmherzigkeit währt von Geschlecht zu Geschlecht: bei denen,  
die ihn fürchten.  
Er übt Gewalt mit seinem Arm : und zerstreut, die hoffärtig sind in ihres  
Herzens Sinn.  
Er stößt die Gewaltigen vom Thron : und erhebt die Niedrigen.  
Die Hungrigen füllt er mit Gütern :  
und läßt die Reichen leer ausgehn.  
Er gedenket der Barmherzigkeit :  
und hilft seinem Diener Israel auf,  
wie er geredt hat zu unsern Vätern :  
Abraham und seinem Kindern in Ewigkeit.*

*Lob und Preis sei Gott dem Vater und dem Sohne:  
und dem Heiligen Geiste,  
wie im Anfang, so auch jetzt und alle Zeit: und in Ewigkeit. Amen.*

*+ 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.

German text: Martin Luther's translation  
Music: Gregorian chant, Tonus Peregrinus

*The* **SECOND LESSON** (Luke 2:22-28):

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Jesus' parents brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

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

*Lumen ad revelacionem gentium et gloriam plebis tue Israhel.*

*+Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine:*

*secundum verbum in pace:*

*Quia viderunt oculi mei: salutare tuum.*

*Quod parasti: ante faciem omnium populorum.*

*Lumen ad revelacionem gentium et gloriam plebis tue Israhel.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio: et Spiritui Sancto,*

*Sicut erat in principio, nunc, et semper, et in secula seculorum. Amen.*

+ 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.

Latin Text and Music: Nunc Dimittis for Candlemas, Oxford,  
Bodleian Library, MS. Lat. liturg. e. 18, fol. 8r-v

*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:*

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

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

All: 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.  
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:**

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son 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 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 Knowledge”  
*Prof Henrike Lähnemann*

*The* INTERCESSIONS *may include this response:*

All: Lord, in thy mercy  
**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* BLEST ARE THE PURE IN HEART (NEH 341):

Blest are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see our God,  
The secret of the Lord is theirs,  
Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens  
Our life and peace to bring,  
To dwell in lowliness with men,  
Their pattern and their King;

Still to the lowly soul  
He doth himself impart,  
And for his dwelling and his throne  
Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;  
May ours this blessing be;  
Give us a pure and lowly heart,  
A temple meet for thee.

Words: John Keble (1792-1866)

Music: *Franconia* by W.H. Havergal (1793-1870), adapted from a melody in J.B. König's *Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz* (Frankfurt, 1738)

*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](#).