

Choral Evensong

Chapel of St Edmund Hall



The Sunday after Ascension

Speaker: The Revd Kate Seagrave

16 May 2021

6.15 pm

Evensong: Easter to Trinity

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.

In Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the new world created by his life and work. As term continues, we will come to the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, when Christ was seated at the right hand of God the Father and poured out upon his disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

We will part in the season after the Feast of the Holy Trinity, which lends its name to Oxford's spring term. After an unusual year, we will take time to remember the gifts we have received in our communion with God and one another.

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 encourage you to sing along, too (on mute). Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 871 1237 7996

Password: 569780

Our speaker, the Revd Kate Seagrave is Mission Priest for the Community of St Frideswide, an Oxford-based network focused on renewing prayer and vocation among young adults, while mixing residential and dispersed communities.

Cover image: Fall of the angels, detail on a lacquer screen, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC. [Photo](#) by Fr Lawrence Lew, OP.

Organ Voluntary

Opening Sentence

The Lord declared his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the nations.

Ps. 98.3

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 76.1-6**

- 1 In Jewry is God known; his Name is great in Israel.
- 2 At Salem is his tabernacle, and his dwelling in Sion.

- 3 There brake he the arrows of the bow,
the shield, the sword, and the battle.
- 4 Thou art of more honour and might
than the hills of the robbers.
- 5 The proud are robbed, they have slept their sleep,
and all the men whose hands were mighty have found
nothing.
- 6 At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob,
both the chariot and horse are fallen.

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: John Goss (1800-1880)

The First Lesson (Isaiah 14:3-15)

When the Lord has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and
the hard service with which you were made to serve, you will take
up this taunt against the king of Babylon:

How the oppressor has ceased!
How his insolence has ceased!
The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked,
the sceptre of rulers,
that struck down the peoples in wrath
with unceasing blows,
that ruled the nations in anger
with unrelenting persecution.

The whole earth is at rest and quiet;
they break forth into singing.
The cypresses exult over you,
the cedars of Lebanon, saying,
'Since you were laid low,
no one comes to cut us down.'

Sheol beneath is stirred up
to meet you when you come;
it rouses the shades to greet you,
all who were leaders of the earth;
it raises from their thrones
all who were kings of the nations.
All of them will speak
and say to you:

'You too have become as weak as we are!
You have become like us!'
Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,
and the sound of your harps;
maggots are the bed beneath you,
and worms are your covering.
How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn!
How you are cut down to the ground,
you who laid the nations low!

You said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit on the mount of assembly
on the heights of Zaphon;

I will ascend to the tops of the clouds,
I will make myself like the Most High.'

But you are brought down to Sheol,
to the depths of the Pit.

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: Fauxbourdons by William Byrd (1540-1623)

The Second Lesson (Revelation 14.1-13)

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless.

Then I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation and tribe and language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgement has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.'

Then another angel, a second, followed, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'

Then another angel, a third, followed them, crying with a loud voice, 'Those who worship the beast and its image, and receive a mark on their foreheads or on their hands, they will also drink the wine of God's wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and they will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image and for anyone who receives the mark of its name.'

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them.'

The Choir sings 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: Geoffrey Burgon (1941-2010)

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.

Let us pray.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.
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.

Choir: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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 Choir sings the Anthem

Jvarsa shensa taq'vanis

Vtsemt meupeo.

Da ts'mindaosa aghdgomasa shensa

Ugalobt da vadidebt.

We worship your cross, Lord,

And glorify and praise your holy resurrection.

Words and music: Anonymous, medieval Georgian hymn

The Address

The Revd Kate Seagrave

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 sings the Hymn (NEH 119)

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:

Alleluia!

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.

Alleluia!

On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in his majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain.

Alleluia!

He brake the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell;
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell.

Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live and sing to thee.

Alleluia!

Words: Latin hymn, trans. by Francis Pott (1832-1909)
Melody: Adapted from *Magnificat Tertii Toni* by G.P. da Palestrina
(1525-1594), Alleluya composed by W.H. Monk (1823-1889)

The Blessing

Organ Voluntary

Regular Services (25 April to 19 June)

Sunday	6.15pm	Choral Evensong
Mon-Thurs	6pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	12:30pm	Eucharist

During the week, Evening Prayer and the Eucharist take place in person for all members of college.

Special Services

Sunday 23 May, Pentecost, Confirmation Service (10.30am)

The Bishop of Oxford will be confirming candidates at the University Church on the Feast of Pentecost. Many of the candidates will be from the Oxford colleges. There are limited spaces available. So if you would like to attend and support those being confirmed, please contact the Chaplain.

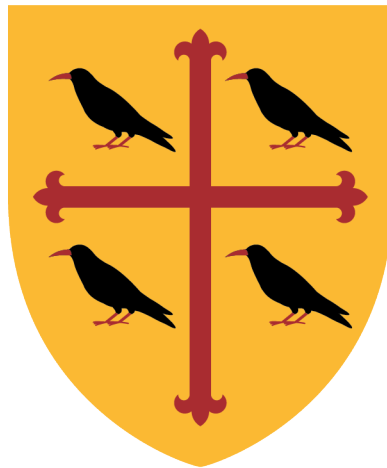
Thursday 3 June, Corpus Christi

Plans are coming together for a sung Eucharist on this feast, celebrating the gift of Holy Communion. Timings and details will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

Other Activities

Wednesday Reading Group (4.30pm)

We will be discussing Rowan Williams, *Luminaries: Twenty Lives that Illuminate the Christian Way*. All members of college are welcome, and staff and students from Magdalen may join us online. Next week we will read the chapter on Florence Nightingale.



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Hall