

Choral Evensong

Chapel of St Edmund Hall



The Feast of Pentecost
Whitsunday

23 May 2021

6.15pm

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.

We began term in the season of Easter, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the new world created by his life and work. We have now come to the Feast of Pentecost. Christ, seated at the right hand of God the Father, pours out upon his disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

We will part after the Feast of the Holy Trinity, which lends its name to Oxford's spring term. In 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 Prof Jennifer Strawbridge is Associate Professor in New Testament Studies, and G.B. Caird Fellow in Theology at Mansfield College. Her research focuses on the history and reception of the New Testament, and she is most recently editor of *The First Letter of Peter: A Global Commentary*, which will be used for the upcoming Lambeth conference, a gathering of Anglican bishops worldwide.



Cover image: Stained glass of the Holy Spirit's descent in St Aloysius' Church, Somers Town. [Photo](#) by Fr Lawrence Lew, OP.

Organ Voluntary

Opening Sentence

The Spirit of the Lord filleth the world, and that which containeth all things hath knowledge of the voice.

Wisdom of Solomon 1.7, antiphon

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 65.10-14

- 10 The river of God is full of water;
thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the earth.
- 11 Thou waterest her furrows,
thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof;
thou makest it soft with the drops of rain,
and blessest the increase of it.
- 12 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness,
and thy clouds drop fatness.
- 13 They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness,
and the little hills shall rejoice on every side.
- 14 The folds shall be full of sheep;
the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn,
that they shall laugh and sing.

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 (Acts 2.1-21)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved."

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: Setting in C by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The Second Lesson (John 15:26-27, 16:4-15)

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what

is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

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: Setting in C by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

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.

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.

Choir: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
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

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, 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

O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, and lighten our understanding, that we may dwell in the fear of thy name all the days of our life, and may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

Words: Anonymous prayer in 16th-century collections

Music: Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

The Address

The Revd Prof Jennifer Strawbridge

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 137)

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434), trans. by Richard Frederick
Littledale (1883-1890)
Melody: Down Ampney by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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. Choral Evensong has limited in person spaces, and is broadcast via Zoom.

Special Services

Thursday 3 June, Corpus Christi (6pm)

We will have a sung Eucharist on this feast, celebrating the gift of Holy Communion. It will take the place of Evening Prayer that day. The choir will be singing William Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus*, along with a setting of the Mass.

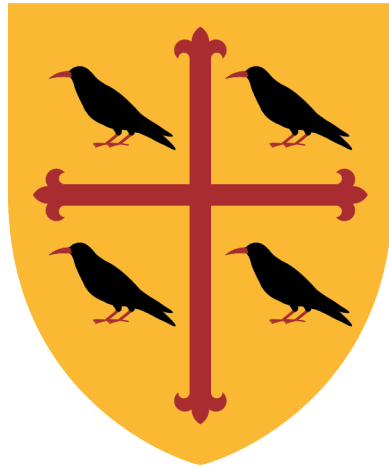
Other Activities

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 Sergei Bulgakov.

St Edmund Saturdays (2.30pm)

The Chaplain leads a walk each Saturday afternoon. Next Saturday, we will attempt (once more) to swing by Osney Abbey and St Frideswides, if we're not rained out.



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