

Choral Evensong

Chapel of St Edmund Hall



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Speaker: The Chaplain

25 April 2021

5.30 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. The Gospel of John describes one of his appearances to his disciples like this. When they were afraid and hiding, 'Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord' (John 20:19-20).

We celebrate the new world inaugurated by Christ's work and the hope and peace offered to us by the light of the resurrection. 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 link at:

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

Cover image: Ceri Richards (1958), study for the *Supper at Emmaus* altarpiece. Pen and ink, watercolour and gouache, 40 x 40 cm. Methodist Modern Art Collection.

Organ Voluntary

The choir sings the Introit

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict.

In Christ they inherit a crown of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia.

Words: Salisbury Diurnal

Music: William Henry Harris (1883-1973)

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 84.1-7 (*Quam dilecta*)

- 1 O how amiable are thy dwellings,
thou Lord of hosts!
- 2 My soul hath a desire and longing
to enter into the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house;
they will be alway praising thee.
- 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee,
in whose heart are thy ways.
- 6 Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well, and
the pools are filled with water.
- 7 They will go from strength to strength,
and unto the God of gods appeareth
every one of them in Sion.

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: Sir Walter Parratt KCVO (1841-1924)

The First Lesson (Exodus 24.1-11)

Then God said to Moses, ‘Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship at a distance. Moses alone shall come near the Lord; but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.’

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, ‘All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.’ And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt-offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the Lord. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, ‘All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.’ Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, ‘See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.’

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. God did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; also they beheld God, and they ate and drank.

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 C, arr.
by James Whitbourn (1963-) for chamber organ

The Second Lesson (Luke 24:13-32)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?'

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?'

They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.'

Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all

the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'

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: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), setting in C, arr.
by James Whitbourn (1963-) for chamber organ

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.

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

Almighty God, who shewest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The Chaplain

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 sings the Hymn (NEH 102)

A brighter dawn is breaking,
And earth with praise is waking;
For thou, O King most highest,
The power of death defiest;

And thou hast come victorious,
With risen Body glorious,
Who now for ever livest,
And life abundant givest.

O free the world from blindness,
And fill the world with kindness,
Give sinners resurrection,
Bring striving to perfection;

In sickness give us healing,
In doubt thy clear revealing,
That praise to thee be given
In earth as in thy heaven.

Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)
Melody: 'Nun Last Uns Gott' from Nikolaus Selnecker,
Christliche Psalmen (Leipzig, 1587)

The Blessing

The Organ Voluntary

Regular Services (25 April to 19 June)

Sunday	5.30pm	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. If you can't join in person, here is the Zoom link:

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

Other Activities

Wednesday Reading Group (4:30pm)

We will be discussing Rowan Williams's book on the lives of saints, martyrs, poets, theologians, and social reformers: *Luminaries: Twenty Lives that Illuminate the Christian Way*. All members of college are welcome, and staff and students from Magdalen may join us online. Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98276818026?pwd=YWM4Qm9yWmJST2JNM29ZbVAzQ2lQQT09>

St Edmund Saturdays (2:30pm)

Meet the Chaplain for a walk and conversation to clear the cobwebs and get outdoors. Walks may end with a socially-distanced visit to an outdoor café or beer garden. Meet outside the chapel in household bubbles or groups of six. Only extreme weather will deter.