



Monday 5 October 2020

Lighten Our Darkness

A Contemporary Choral Evening Prayer

Officiant
Catherine Duce

The Choral Scholars
of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Gabriella Noble

Accompanied by
Ben Giddens

Introit For the beauty of the earth *Rutter*

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r
Sun and Moon and stars of light
Sun and Moon and stars of light
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

Welcome

Confession

All My God, for love of you I desire to hate and forsake all sins by which I have ever displeased you; and I resolve by the help of your grace to commit them no more; and to avoid all opportunities of sin. Help me to do this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Psalm 75

Old Testament Reading 2 Chronicles 9. 1-12

When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions, having a very great retinue and camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she discussed with him all that was on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from Solomon that he could not explain to her. When the queen of Sheba had observed the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, and their clothing, his valets and their clothing, and his burnt-offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit left in her.

So she said to the king, 'The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes saw it. Not even half of the greatness of your wisdom had been told to me; you far surpass the report that I had heard. Happy are your people! Happy are these your servants, who continually attend you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on his throne as king for the Lord your God. Because your God loved Israel and wished to establish them for ever, he has made you king over them, so that you may execute justice and righteousness.' Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, a very great quantity of spices, and precious stones: there were no spices such as those that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. Moreover, the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir brought algum wood and precious stones. From the algum wood, the king made steps for the house of the Lord and for the king's house, lyres also and harps for the singers; there never was seen the like of them before in the land of Judah.

Meanwhile, King Solomon granted the queen of Sheba every desire that she expressed, well beyond what she had brought to the king. Then she returned to her own land, with her servants.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat *Stanford in B flat*

New Testament Reading Matthew 18.1-6, 10

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer *Nils Greenhow*

Responses *Nils Greenhow*

*Give us Lord the readiness of Mary,
That we may bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.*

*Renew your Church, Lord God;
And open our eyes to wonders of your kingdom.*

*Govern the hearts of those in authority
And loosen the chains of all who are downtrodden.*

*Dry the tears of your children who grieve
And prepare us all for the hour we breathe no more.*

*Visit your people who live under the curse of war
And show us the paths that lead to peace.*

*O God be our companion forever.
That all our days we may abide in you.*

*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. Amen.*

Prayers

ending with:

The Collect of the day

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Anthem The Canticle of Brother Sun *Grayston Ives*

Most High, Omnipotent Lord,
all praise, all honour and glory be given to Thee,
to Thee alone most High all praise belong.
Be praised O Lord for all thy works.
For Brother Sun, whose brightness
makes the light be which we see.
For Sister Moon, whose beams were formed to shine
so clear and bright.
For Brother Wind, whose clouds and breezes
blow across the land.
For Sister Water, so precious, humble,
lowly, chaste and pure.
Be praised O Lord for all thy works.
Be praised my Lord for Brother Fire,
whose flames and light illuminate the night.
Be praised my Lord for Sister Earth,
for grass and plants and flowers and all our food.

Be praised my Lord for all thy love bestowed on us.
Bless those who walk the way of peace, in quiet to live.
By Thee O Lord Most High they shall be crowned.
Be praised O heavenly Lord,
all praise and blessing and glory be given to you,
with humblest thanks for all he's given you. Amen.

St Francis of Assisi

Notices

Hymn

- 1 All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

- 2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia.
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice;
Chorus

- 3 Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia.
the flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:
Chorus

- 4 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
now praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
Chorus

William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

Blessing

Blessing Anthem The Lord bless you and keep you *Rutter*

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
And give you peace, Amen.

Numbers 6.24-26

Some material in this service is copyright:
© The Archbishops' Council 2000
Responses © Samuel Wells.

Hymns reproduced using CCL 284612 and Calamus 1744, Music using MRL811779; Streaming Licence 59787. One License A-631744.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ
www.smitf.org

September 2020

If you have enjoyed this service and would like to help us continue with this work, we would be grateful to receive donations towards the worshiping life of the church.

You can give:



- by texting COLLECTION to 70450 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message),
- online at stmartininthefields.myknowchurch.co.uk/giving:

Thank you.