



Monday 12 October 2020

Lighten Our Darkness

A Contemporary Choral Evening Prayer

Officiant
Revd Catherine Duce

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

Directed by
Gabriella Noble

Accompanied by
Ben Giddens

Introit *Serenity James MacMillan*

*O salutaris Hostia
Quae coeli pandis ostium.
Bella premunt hostilia;
Da robur fer auxilium.*

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time and
accepting hardships as the way to peace;
trusting that He will make things right if I surrender to his will.*

*Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna Gloria.
Qui vitam sine termino,
Nobis donet in patria.*

God grant me serenity, courage, wisdom.

Latin text: St Thomas Aquinas

English text: attrib. Reinhold Niebuhr

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 85

Old Testament Reading 2 Chronicles 17. 1-12

His son Jehoshaphat succeeded him, and strengthened himself against Israel. He placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa had taken. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father; he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the ways of Israel. Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand. All Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honour. His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord; and furthermore he removed the high places and the sacred poles from Judah.

In the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. With them were the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah; and with these Levites, the priests Elishama and Jehoram. They taught in Judah, having the book of the law of the Lord with them; they went around through all the cities of Judah and taught among the people. The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the lands around Judah, and they did not make war against Jehoshaphat. Some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and silver for tribute; and the Arabs also brought him seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats. Jehoshaphat grew steadily greater. He built fortresses and storage cities in Judah.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat *Ben Parry in G*

New Testament Reading Mark 15.1-15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

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

Almighty God, who called our forebears to the light of the gospel by the preaching of your servant Wilfrid: help us, who keep his life and labour in remembrance, to glorify your name by following the example of his zeal and perseverance; 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 Standing as I do before God *Cecilia McDowall*

*I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me.
Standing as I do in view of God and eternity,
I realise patriotism is not enough:
I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.*

*And when the time was close, for once her eyes filled with tears,
then she quietly rose, walked silently through the stilled prison,
the grey dawn light, passed gas flame, tired flowers, out beyond her
final night,
alight in hours before infinity, in the presence of death leaving all
enmity:
in view of God, we are air after breath.
Standing as I do.*

Edith Cavell (1865-1915) & Seán Street (b.1946)

Notices

Hymn

- 1 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 3 I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
- 4 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Blessing

Organ Voluntary Fanfare *Kenneth Leighton*

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