



Monday 26 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 A New Commandment *Richard Shephard*

A new commandment I give unto you:

that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

Text: John 13: 34-5

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 127

Old Testament Reading 2 Maccabees 4.7-17

When Seleucus died and Antiochus, who was called Epiphanes, succeeded to the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias obtained the high-priesthood by corruption, promising the king at an interview three hundred and sixty talents of silver, and from another source of revenue eighty talents. In addition to this he promised to pay one hundred and fifty more if permission were given to establish by his authority a gymnasium and a body of youth for it, and to enrol the people of Jerusalem as citizens of Antioch. When the king assented and Jason came to office, he at once shifted his compatriots over to the Greek way of life.

He set aside the existing royal concessions to the Jews, secured through John the father of Eupolemus, who went on the mission to establish friendship and alliance with the Romans; and he destroyed the lawful ways of living and introduced new customs contrary to the law. He took delight in establishing a gymnasium right under the citadel, and he induced the noblest of the young men to wear the Greek hat. There was such an extreme of Hellenization and increase in the adoption of foreign ways because of the surpassing wickedness

of Jason, who was ungodly and no true high priest, that the priests were no longer intent upon their service at the altar. Despising the sanctuary and neglecting the sacrifices, they hurried to take part in the unlawful proceedings in the wrestling arena after the signal for the discus-throwing, disdainingly the honours prized by their ancestors and putting the highest value upon Greek forms of prestige. For this reason heavy disaster overtook them, and those whose ways of living they admired and wished to imitate completely became their enemies and punished them. It is no light thing to show irreverence to the divine laws—a fact that later events will make clear.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat Collegium Regale *Howells*

New Testament Reading John 15.1-11

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

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 *Sasha Johnson Manning*

Responses *Sasha Johnson Manning*

*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

God, our maker and redeemer, we pray you of your great mercy and by the power of your holy cross to guide us by your will and to shield us from our foes: that, after the example of your servant Alfred, we may inwardly love you above all things; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Anthem Littlemore Tractus *Arvo Pärt*

May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done! Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

"Wisdom and Innocence", sermon preached on February 1843 in Littlemore

Notices

Hymn

- 1 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied
through the life of him who died.

- 2 Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
'tis thy wounds our healing give,
to thy Cross we look and live:
thou our life! O let us be
rooted, grafted, built on thee.

Josiah Conder (1798-1855)

Blessing

Organ Voluntary Postlude on a theme of Orlando Gibbons
(Song 22) *Stanford*

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