



**THIRD SUNDAY**

**BEFORE LENT**

**CHORAL EVENSONG**

**WITH SERMON IN MUSIC**

**13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022, 5:30<sup>PM</sup>**

**ST BRIDE'S  
CHURCH**

## **Hymn**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.**

**O generous love! That he, who smote  
in Man for man the foe,  
the double agony in Man  
for man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**

Tune: Gerontious by J B Dykes 1823-76  
Harmony by J H Newman 1801-90

## Welcome

**Minister** Beloved, we are come together  
in the presence of Almighty God  
and of the whole company of heaven  
to offer unto him, through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our worship and praise and thanksgiving;  
to make confession of our sins,  
to pray as well for others as for ourselves,  
that we may know more truly  
the greatness of God's love  
and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace;  
and to ask on behalf of all men  
such things as their well being doth require.  
Wherefore let us kneel now  
and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

## Confession

**All**            **Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways  
like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much  
the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things  
which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things  
which we ought not to have done,  
and there is no health in us:  
but thou, O Lord,  
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;  
spare thou them, O God,  
which confess their faults,  
restore thou them that are penitent,  
according to thy promises  
declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesu our Lord:**

**and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly,  
righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy name.  
Amen.**

*The Minister delivers the Absolution*

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto  
you pardon and remission of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

**All            Amen.**

### **Preces**

Philip Radcliffe

Minister    O Lord, open thou our lips,  
Choir        *and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

Minister    O God, make speed to save us,  
Choir        *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

Minister    Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
              and to the Holy Ghost;  
Choir        *as it was in the beginning, is now,  
              and ever shall be,  
              world without end. Amen.*

Minister    Praise ye the Lord.  
Choir        *The Lord's name be praised.*

## Psalm 46

Choir

*1 God is our hope and strength :  
a very present help in trouble.*

*2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved :  
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.*

*3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell :  
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the  
same.*

*4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad  
the city of God :  
the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.*

*5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she  
not be removed :  
God shall help her, and that right early.*

*6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are  
moved :  
but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth  
shall melt away.*

*7 The Lord of hosts is with us :  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

*8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord :  
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.*

*9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world :  
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,  
and burneth the chariots in the fire.*

*10 Be still then, and know that I am God :  
I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be  
exalted in the earth.*

*11 The Lord of hosts is with us :  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

*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.*

Chant: Anonymous

## **Old Testament Lesson**

**Wisdom 11: 21 - 12: 11**

read by Philip Tebb

For it is always in thy power to show great strength, and who can withstand the might of thy arm? Because the whole world before thee is like a speck that tips the scales, and like a drop of morning dew that falls upon the ground. But thou art merciful to all, for thou canst do all things, and thou dost overlook men's sins, that they may repent. For thou lovest all things that exist, and hast loathing for none of the things which thou hast made, for thou wouldst not have made anything if thou hadst hated it. How would anything have endured if thou hadst not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by thee have been preserved? Thou sparest all things, for they are thine, O Lord who lovest the living. For thy immortal spirit is in all things. Therefore thou dost correct little by little those who trespass, and dost remind and warn them of the things wherein they sin, that they may be freed from wickedness and put their trust in thee, O Lord.

Those who dwelt of old in thy holy land thou didst hate for their detestable practices, their works of sorcery and unholy rites, their merciless slaughter of children, and their sacrificial feasting on human flesh and blood. These initiates from the midst of a heathen cult, these parents who murder helpless lives, thou didst will to destroy by the hands of our fathers, that the land most precious of all to thee might receive a worthy colony of the servants of God. But even these thou didst spare, since they were but men, and didst send wasps as forerunners

of thy army, to destroy them little by little, though thou wast not unable to give the ungodly into the hands of the righteous in battle, or to destroy them at one blow by dread wild beasts or thy stern word. But judging them little by little thou gavest them a chance to repent, though thou wast not unaware that their origin was evil and their wickedness inborn, and that their way of thinking would never change. For they were an accursed race from the beginning, and it was not through fear of any one that thou didst leave them unpunished for their sins.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Magnificat**

*Evening Service in C* – Charles Hylton Stewart

Choir      *My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
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 showed 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.*

## **New Testament Lesson**

### **Galatians 4: 8-20**

read by Lesley-Ann Jones

Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all. Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? For I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All                    Thanks be to God.**



## **Nunc Dimittis**

*Evening Service in C – Charles Hylton Stewart*

Choir      *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.*

## **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.**

## **Responses**

Philip Radcliffe

Minister    The Lord be with you,  
Choir        *and with thy spirit.*

Minister    Let us pray.

Choir        *Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*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.*

Minister    O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us,  
Choir        *and grant us thy salvation.*

Minister    O Lord, save the Queen,  
Choir        *and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Minister    Endue thy Ministers with righteousness,  
Choir        *and make thy chosen people joyful.*

Minister    O Lord, save thy people,  
Choir        *and bless thine inheritance.*

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord,  
Choir *because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.*

Minister O God, make clean our hearts within us,  
Choir *and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

## **Collects**

### ***The first, for the day***

Minister *O almighty God  
who alone canst order the unruly wills  
and affections of the sinful:  
grant unto thy people that they may love  
the thing which thou commandest  
and desire that which thou dost promise, so that,  
among the sundry and manifold changes of the world,  
our hearts may surely there be fixed  
where true joys are to be found;  
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*  
Choir *Amen.*

### ***The second, for Peace***

Minister 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.*

## ***The third, for Aid against all Perils***

Minister    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.*

### **Sermon in Music**

- i) *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem* – Charles Villiers Stanford
- ii) *Strengthen ye the weak hands* – William Harris  
(Please see notes on page 14)

### **Prayers of Intercession**

The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

*These responses may be used*

**All**            Lord, in thy mercy,  
                 **hear our prayer.**

**All**            Merciful Father,  
                 **accept these prayers**  
                 **for the sake of thy Son,**  
                 **our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Hymn**

**Ye holy angels bright,  
who wait at God's right hand,  
or through the realms of light  
fly at your Lord's command,  
assist our song,  
for else the theme  
too high doth seem  
for mortal tongue.**

**Ye blessèd souls at rest,  
who ran this earthly race,  
and now, from sin released,  
behold the Saviour's face,  
his praises sound,  
as in his sight  
with sweet delight  
ye do abound.**

**Ye saints, who toil below,  
adore your heavenly King,  
and onward as ye go  
some joyful anthem sing;  
take what he gives  
and praise him still,  
through good or ill,  
who ever lives.**

**My soul, bear thou thy part,  
triumph in God above,  
and with a well-tuned heart  
sing thou the songs of love;  
let all thy days  
till life shall end,  
whate'er he send,  
be filled with praise.**

Tune: Darwall's 148th  
Harmony by W H Monk 1823-89  
Words: R Baxter 1615-91 and J H Gurney 1802-62

## **Blessing**

Minister    The peace of God,  
                 which passeth all understanding,  
                 keep your hearts and minds  
                 in the knowledge and love of God,  
                 and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:  
                 and the blessing of God almighty,  
                 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
                 be amongst you and remain with you always.

Choir        *Amen.*

## **Organ Voluntary**

*Hymn-Prelude on Darwall's 148th – Percy Whitlock (played by Ben Giddens)*

## Sermon in Music

- i) *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem* – Charles Villiers Stanford 1852-1924
- ii) *Strengthen ye the weak hands* – William Harris 1883-1973

Charles Villiers Stanford was an Irishman by birth, but became an important figure in the British musical establishment. His first appointment was as organist of Trinity College, Cambridge, which he took up in 1873 while still an undergraduate – later he became simultaneously Professor of Music at Cambridge and the first composition teacher at the newly opened Royal College of Music in London, where his pupils included Holst, Howells and Vaughan Williams. He was knighted in 1901 and died in 1924, being buried in Westminster Abbey near Henry Purcell.

Stanford was a prolific composer of all kinds of music, but is principally remembered today for his church compositions. His four settings of the evening canticles (all of which exist in orchestral versions as well as with organ accompaniment) have long been a cornerstone of the Anglican repertoire and his three early Latin motets, all written for the choir at Trinity, are universally loved. *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem* dates from 1911, later than much of his church music, and is a joyful and lively anthem for full choir and organ - the text is a translation by R Campbell of an 11th century Latin Easter hymn by St Fulbert of Chartres.

William Henry Harris was one of the most distinguished church musicians of the twentieth century, holding organist posts successively at New College and Christ Church, Oxford before becoming organist of St. George's chapel, Windsor Castle in 1933, a post he held for almost 30 years. He was involved in two Coronations (George VI in 1937 and Elizabeth II in 1953) and taught the piano to the two young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret.

As a composer, Harris wrote a number of large-scale works, including a setting of Francis Thompson's poem *The Hound of Heaven* for baritone soloist, choir and orchestra – he had music performed at the Three Choirs Festival and the Proms. However, he was most at home writing for church choirs, and two of his

anthems for eight-part choir, *Faire is the heaven* and *Bring us, O Lord God* have become mainstays of the Anglican repertoire. *Strengthen ye the weak hands* is an anthem for choir and organ intended for St Luke's day and has a wide-ranging text, beginning with verses from Ecclesiasticus, continuing with the well-known passage from Isaiah chapter 50 and concluding with the Prayer Book collect for the Visitation of the Sick.

## **Ye choirs of new Jerusalem**

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the Paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,  
crushing the serpent's head;  
and cries aloud, through death's domains  
to wake the imprison'd dead.

Devouring depths of hell their prey  
at his command restore;  
his ransomed hosts pursue their way  
where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in His glory now  
to Him all power is given;  
to Him in one communion bow  
all saints in earth and heaven.

While we, his soldiers, praise our King  
His mercy we implore,  
within His palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
while endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.



## **Strengthen ye the weak hands**

The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth; and he that is wise will not abhor them. And he hath giv'n men skill, that he might be honour'd in his marvellous works. My son, in thy sickness leave off from sin, and order thy hands aright, and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold your God will come; he will come and save you.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopp'd.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be giv'n unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.

O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeem'd us, save us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Words: Ecclesiasticus 38: 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, Isaiah 35: 1–6, The Book of Common Prayer

# Thank You

**We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to support us during this crisis, both through regular giving and occasional gifts.**

**This financial support remains vital to our on-going ministry. Although our normal services have now resumed, our ability to raise funds to maintain our ministry and building is still impacted.**

**The singers, organist, and Director of Music are all freelance professional musicians who have been significantly affected during the pandemic, and your donations have allowed us to help them financially through these difficult times.**

**We shall continue to offer our online worship - even though this requires additional investment - because no service from St Bride's would be complete without the wonderful music which our choir provides.**

**If you would like to make a donation to support the work of St Bride's, please do so at:**

**[www.justgiving.com/stbrideschurchfleetstreet](http://www.justgiving.com/stbrideschurchfleetstreet)**

**Alternatively, in the UK:**

**text 5STBRIDES to 70470 to donate £5**

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**ST BRIDE'S  
CHURCH**