



**THE FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
TRINITY
CHORAL EVENSONG**

20TH SEPTEMBER 2020, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Processional Hymn

**Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.**

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

**Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?**

**Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!**

Tune: Savannah. Melody from Choralbuch Herrnhut c1740
Words: C Wesley 1707-88

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;

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

Herbert Sumsion

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 119: 89-104

Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 33: 23, 30 – 34: 10 (KJV)

read by Nina Bennet

Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with

their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them. And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

At the end the reader may say

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

Evening Service in B minor – Herbert Howells

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

Acts 26: 1, 9-25 (KJV)

read by Philip Tebb

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me. Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

At the end the reader may say

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B minor – Herbert Howells

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

Herbert Sumsion

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

Minister Let us pray.
Please kneel or sit

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 *God, who of thy generous mercy didst send
the Holy Spirit upon thy Church
in the burning fire of thy love:
grant that thy people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, ever abiding in thee,
they may be found steadfast in faith
and active in service;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

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.*

Anthem

Like as the hart – Herbert Howells

*Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God,
yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me,
“Where is now thy God?”*

Words: Psalm 42: 1–3

Sermon

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce, *Rector of St Bride’s*

Office Hymn

**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many years has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:**
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

**In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:**
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:**
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:**
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Tune: Noel Nouvelet. Old French melody harmonised by M Shaw 1875-1958
Words: J M C Crum 1872-1958

Prayers of Intercession

The Revd Dr Jeff Lake

This response may be used

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

And at the end

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

Offertory Hymn

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Tune: Nicaea by J B Dykes 1823-76
Words: R Heber 1783-1826

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

Rhapsody No. 3 in C sharp minor – Herbert Howells

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Thank You

Our doors are now open for private prayer and some services, but our ability to raise funds to maintain our ministry and building is still severely impacted.

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.

These freelance professional musicians have been significantly affected and we have been supporting them financially since lockdown.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to support us during this crisis through regular giving and those who have made donations online via JustGiving and by text following our online services. This financial support is vital to our on-going ministry.

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

www.justgiving.com/stbrideschurchfleetstreet

Alternatively, in the UK:

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

text **10STBRIDES** to 70470 to donate £10

text **20STBRIDES** to 70470 to donate £20

Thank you for your support

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