

# Choral Evensong, Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, sung by the St Cyprian's Singers. The minister tonight is The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean. The preacher is The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts & Reconciliation. The Canticles are the *St Paul's Service* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983), and the responses are by Richard Ayleward (1626-1669). The service can be followed in the purple service book.

## Introit

View me, Lord, a work of thine:  
shall I then lie drown'd in night?  
Might thy grace in me but shine,  
I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel  
at thine altar, pure and white;  
they that once thy mercies feel,  
gaze no more on earth's delight.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade  
when the heav'nly light appears;  
but the cov'nants thou hast made,  
endless, know nor days, nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust,  
to thy mercies fast I fly;  
though I am but clay and dust,  
yet thy grace can lift me high.

*Words by Thomas Campion (1567-1620)*  
*Music by Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)*

## Psalm 107:1-32

1. O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.
2. Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed: and delivered from the hand of the enemy;
3. And gathered them out of the lands, from the east and from the west: from the north and from the south.
4. They went astray in the wilderness out of the way: and found no city to dwell in;
5. Hungry and thirsty: their soul fainted in them.
6. So they cried unto the Lord in their trouble: and he delivered them from their distress.
7. He led them forth by the right way: that they might go to the city where they dwelt.
8. O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men!
9. For he satisfieth the empty soul: and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.
10. Such as sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: being fast bound in misery and iron ;
11. Because they rebelled against the words of the Lord: and lightly regarded the counsel of the most Highest;
12. He also brought down their heart through heaviness: they fell down, and there was none to help them.
13. So when they cried unto the Lord in their trouble: he delivered them out of their distress.
14. For he brought them out of darkness, and out of the shadow of death: and brake their bonds in sunder.
15. O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men!
16. For he hath broken the gates of brass: and smitten the bars of iron in sunder.
17. Foolish men are plagued for their offence: and because of their wickedness.
18. Their soul abhorred all manner of meat: and they were even hard at death's door.
19. So when they cried unto the Lord in their trouble: he delivered them out of their distress.

20. He sent his word, and healed them: and they were saved from their destruction.
  21. O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men!
  22. That they would offer unto him the sacrifice of thanksgiving: and tell out his works with gladness!
  23. They that go down to the sea in ships: and occupy their business in great waters;
  24. These men see the works of the Lord: and his wonders in the deep.
  25. For at his word the stormy wind ariseth: which lifteth up the waves thereof.
  26. They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep: their soul melteth away because of the trouble.
  27. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man: and are at their wits' end.
  28. So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble: he delivereth them out of their distress.
  29. For he maketh the storm to cease: so that the waves thereof are still.
  30. Then are they glad, because they are at rest: and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.
  31. O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men!
  32. That they would exalt him also in the congregation of the people: and praise him in the seat of the elders!
- 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.

### **The First Lesson** *Genesis 50:4-26*

When the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph addressed the household of Pharaoh, 'If now I have found favour with you, please speak to Pharaoh as follows: My father made me swear an oath; he said, "I am about to die. In the tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore let me go up, so that I may bury my father; then I will return.' Pharaoh answered, 'Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear to do.' So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the

land of Goshen. Both chariots and charioteers went up with him. It was a very great company. When they came to the threshing-floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they held there a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed a time of mourning for his father for seven days. When the Canaanite inhabitants of the land saw the mourning on the threshing-floor of Atad, they said, 'This is a grievous mourning on the part of the Egyptians.' Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him as he had instructed them. They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, the field near Mamre, which Abraham bought as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's household; and Joseph lived for one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph's knees. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am about to die; but God will surely come to you, and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.' So Joseph made the Israelites swear, saying, 'When God comes to you, you shall carry up my bones from here.' And Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

## **The Second Lesson** *1 Corinthians 14:1-19*

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, those who prophesy speak to other people for their building up and encouragement and consolation. Those who speak in a tongue build up themselves, but those who prophesy build up the church. Now I would like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I speak to you in some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? It is the same way with lifeless instruments that produce sound, such as the flute or the harp. If they do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is being played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? So with yourselves; if in a tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is being said? For you will be speaking into the air. There are doubtless many different kinds of sounds in the world, and nothing is without sound. If then I do not know the meaning of a sound, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church. Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unproductive. What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also. Otherwise, if you say a blessing with the spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say the 'Amen' to your thanksgiving, since the outsider does not know what you are saying? For you may give thanks well enough, but the other person is not built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you; nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

## The Collect for the day

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Anthem

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren, sei stille, wie Gott es fügt, so sei vergnügt mein Wille! Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen? Der Eine steht allem für, der gibt auch dir das Deine. Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel, steh feste, was Gott beschleußt, das ist und heißt das Beste. Amen.

*Let no sad thought oppress thee, distress thee; Fear nothing, trust God's own will, and be thou still, my spirit. Heed not with care and sorrow the morrow: our Father who all doth see shall give to thee thy portion. From righteous paths then range not, and change not; be steadfast, for God is just; give him thy trust for ever. Amen.*

*Words by Paul Flemming (1609-1640)*

*Music by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

## The Hymn

**Come, O Thou Traveler unknown,  
Whom still I hold but cannot see;  
My company before is gone,  
And I am left alone with Thee;  
With Thee all night I mean to stay,  
And wrestle till the break of day.**

**I need not tell Thee who I am,  
My sin and misery declare;  
Thyself hast called me by my name,  
Look on Thy hands, and read it there;  
But who, I ask Thee, who art Thou?  
Tell me Thy name, and tell me now.**

In vain Thou strugglest to get free;  
I never will unloose my hold;  
Art Thou the Man that died for me?  
The secret of Thy love unfold;  
Wrestling, I will not let Thee go,  
Till I Thy name, Thy nature know.

Yield to me now, for I am weak,  
But confident in self-despair;  
Speak to my heart, in blessings speak,  
Be conquered by my instant prayer;  
Speak, or Thou never hence shalt move,  
And tell me if Thy name be Love.

'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me,  
I hear Thy whisper in my heart;  
The morning breaks, the shadows flee:  
Pure, universal Love Thou art;  
To me, to all Thy mercies move;  
Thy nature and Thy name is Love.

*Words Charles Wesley after Genesis 32.24-30 (1707-1788)*  
*Tune CP 407 David's Harp, Robert King (1676-1713)*

