

Choral Evensong for Christian Unity

FROM ST MARY-LE-TOWER

Praying together: 'Thy Kingdom Come'

5.00pm Sunday 16th May 2021

Gathering

Attending this Service in Person in Church

If you are coming to church for this service, please bring this order of service with you if you can, on a device or print the paper copy at home and bring it with you. However people arriving in church without their own order of service will be given a shortened service sheet.

It is required that face coverings should be worn by everyone in church. We welcome this as part making church services as safe as possible for people to attend, and as a sign of our desire to protect others from possible infection.

Logging on to the Live Stream

1. The live stream will start at about 4.55pm in preparation for the service.
2. Go to our website www.stmaryletower.org.uk and find the "LIVE Streamed Services" title and click to go to our Facebook Live page.
3. Click on the service video. When the video opens you will need to click on the loudspeaker icon to unmute it and hear the sound.

Music before the Service

Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 – J. S. Bach

Organist: William Baldry

Today God's only-gotten Son
Arose from death, and triumph won,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
In mighty pomp and rich array;
His therefore be the praise alway.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Welcome and Introduction

The Vicar gives the NOTICES, and INTRODUCES the service.

Prayers of Penitence

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 in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

Please kneel or sit, and we keep a time of quiet for personal reflection.

**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.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Opening Responses *(Rose)*

Please stand.

O Lord, open thou our lips:

and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us:

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord:

The Lord's name be praised.

Opening Hymn

Please stand. Due to Coronavirus regulations, it is sadly not currently permitted for the congregation to sing in church. Please follow the words and sing them in your heart. Please join in at home if you wish!

O worship the King all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
hath established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

Listening for the Word from God

Psalm 147.1-12 *Please sit.*

O PRAISE the Lord, for it is a good thing to sing praises
unto our God : yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to
be thankful.

The Lord doth build up Jerusalem : and gather together
the out-casts of Israel.

He healeth those that are broken in heart : and giveth
medicine to heal their sickness.

He telleth the number of the stars : and calleth them all
by their names.

Great is our Lord, and great is his power : yea, and his
wisdom is infinite.

The Lord setteth up the meek : and bringeth the

ungodly down to the ground.

O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving : sing praises
upon the harp unto our God;

Who covereth the heavens with clouds, and prepareth
rain for the earth : and maketh the grass to grow
upon the mountains, and herb for the use of men;

Who giveth fodder unto the cattle : and feedeth the
young ravens that call upon him.

He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse :
neither delighteth he in any man's legs.

But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him : and put
their trust in his mercy.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem : praise thy God, O Sion.

Please stand.

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.

Old Testament Reading

Hosea 6.1-3

read by a member of St Mary-at-Elms.

'Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.'

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

We keep a time of quiet reflection on the reading.

Canticle of Praise *(Stanford in C)*

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath
rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

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 shewed 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.

Please stand.

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 Reading

John 17.20-24

read by a member of the Methodist Church.

Jesus said 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

'Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.'

Here ends the New Testament reading.

We keep a time of quiet reflection on the reading.

Canticle of God's Blessing

Nunc Dimittis

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.

Please stand.

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.

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Julian Pursehouse,
Chair of East Anglia Methodist District

Response in Prayer and Praise

Litany (Rose)

*The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.*

Please kneel or sit.

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.

*O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.
O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.
O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.
O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

The Collects

O God the king of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to thy kingdom in heaven:
we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,
but send thy Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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. Amen.

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.

Anthem (*Leighton*)

Let all the world in every corner sing,
 "My God and King!"
 The heavens are not too high,
 his praise may thither fly;
 the earth is not too low,
 his praises there may grow.
 Let all the world in every corner sing,
 "My God and King!"

Let all the world in every corner sing,
 "My God and King!"
 The Church with psalms must shout,
 no door can keep them out;
 but above all the heart
 must bear the longest part.
 Let all the world in every corner sing,
 "My God and King!"

Intercession

led by the minister of Christ Church, Tacket St.

Sending Out**Mission Hymn**

Sung by the choir.

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
 your Lord and King adore;
 mortals give thanks and sing,
 and triumph evermore:

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
 rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

Jesus, the saviour, reigns,
 the God of truth and love;
 when he had purged our stains
 he took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail,
 he rules o'er earth and heaven,
 the keys of death and hell
 are to our Jesus given:

He sits at God's right hand
 till all his foes submit,
 and bow to his command,
 and fall beneath his feet:

Reading: Acts 1.12, 13a,14

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to

prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Silence is kept for a time.

As we wait in silence,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

Silence is kept for a time.

Blessing

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary *Please sit.*

Grand Chœur – Théodore Salomé

It is our custom at St Mary-le-Tower to sit and listen to the voluntary as a meditation on the service before leaving. The livestream continues until the end of the voluntary.

After the Service

Under Lockdown Coronavirus Regulations it is not yet permitted for people to gather to chat in church, but it is permitted for groups of six to gather in the churchyard after services.

If you wish to speak to the ministers or another member of staff, it is best to do this currently by phone or email.