



# **St Stephen with St John Westminster**

**The Order for Choral Evensong**

**Sunday 28th January 2024**

**6pm**

*The Choir sings an Introit, 'Hail, Gladdening Light' (John Stainer)*

*All may stand and sing the Entrance Hymn as the Clergy enter.*

## **Christ Be Our Light**

Songwriters: Bernadette Farrell

Christ, Be Our Light lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

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| <p><b>1. Longing For Light,<br/>We Wait In Darkness.<br/>Longing For Truth, We Turn To You.<br/>Make Us Your Own, Your Holy People,<br/>Light For The World To See.</b></p> <p><i>Refrain: Christ, Be Our Light!<br/>Shine In Our Hearts.<br/>Shine Through The Darkness.<br/>Christ, Be Our Light!<br/>Shine In Your Church Gathered<br/>Today.</i></p> <p><b>2. Longing For Peace,<br/>Our World Is Troubled.<br/>Longing For Hope, Many Despair.<br/>Your Word Alone Has Power To Save<br/>Us.<br/>Make Us Your Living Voice. (Refrain)</b></p> | <p><b>3. Longing For Food, Many Are Hungry.<br/>Longing For Water, Many Still Thirst.<br/>Make Us Your Bread,<br/>Broken For Others,<br/>Shared Until All Are Fed. (Refrain)</b></p> <p><b>4. Longing For Shelter,<br/>Many Are Homeless.<br/>Longing For Warmth, Many Are<br/>Cold.<br/>Make Us Your Building,<br/>Sheltering Others,<br/>Walls Made Of Living Stone.<br/>(Refrain)</b></p> <p><b>5. Many The Gifts, Many The People,<br/>Many The Hearts That Yearn To<br/>Belong.<br/>Let Us Be Servants To One Another,<br/>Making Your Kingdom Come.<br/>(Refrain)</b></p> |
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DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister, all kneeling.*

**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 Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest alone, standing: the people still kneeling.*

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Versicle & Responses**

*Bernard Rose*

*Sung by the choir.*

*Minister.* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Answer.* **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

*Minister.* O God, make speed to save us.

*Answer.* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*All may stand*

Minister. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Minister. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

*Then shall be sung Psalm 132 as is appointed. All may sit.*

## **Psalm 132**

1 LORD, remember David: and all his trouble;

2 How he sware unto the Lord: and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob;

3 I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house: nor climb up into my bed;

4 I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eye-lids to slumber: neither the temples of my head to take any rest;

5 Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord: an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

6 Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata: and found it in the wood.

7 We will go into his tabernacle: and fall low on our knees before his footstool.

8 Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place: thou, and the ark of thy strength.

9 Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness: and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.

10 For thy servant David's sake: turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.

11 The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David: and he shall not shrink from it;

12 Of the fruit of thy body: shall I set upon thy seat.

13 If thy children will keep my covenant, and my testimonies that I shall learn them: their children also shall sit upon thy seat for evermore.

14 For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for himself: he hath longed for her.

15 This shall be my rest for ever: here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.

16 I will bless her victuals with increase: and will satisfy her poor with bread.

17 I will deck her priests with health: and her saints shall rejoice and sing.

18 There shall I make the horn of David to flourish: I have ordained a lantern for mine Anointed.

19 As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

*(All may 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. A men.

## **Old Testament Lesson**

*All may sit for a Lesson of the Old Testament, Haggai 2.1-9*

In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the Lord by the prophet Haggai, saying, Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts: According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.

## **Magnificat**

*All may stand for the Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary) is sung by the choir from The Evening Service in B flat Charles Villiers Stanford*

## **New Testament Lesson**

*All may sit for a Lesson of the New Testament, John 2.18-22*

Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

*All may stand for the Nunc Dimittis (or the Song of Simeon), which will be sung by the choir from The Evening Service in B flat Charles Villiers Stanford*

*Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister and the people standing.*

## The Apostles' Creed

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 Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting.  
**Amen.**

*And after that these Prayers following, all devoutly kneeling.*

### Versicles and Responses

*Bernard Rose  
Sung by the choir*

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister.* Let us pray.

*Answer.* **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Then the Choir shall sing the Lord's Prayer.*

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.**

*Then the Minister standing up shall sing:*

Minister. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir. **And grant us thy salvation.**

Minister. O Lord, save the King.

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.**

*Then shall follow Collects: The first and second of the day: The third for Peace: The final for Aid against all Perils, as hereafter followeth: which two last Collects shall be daily said at Evening Prayer without alteration.*

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly beseech thy majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*The Second Collect for Septuagesima*

O LORD, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*The Third Collect at Evening Prayer*

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.**

*The Final Collect, for Aid against all Perils*

**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.**

*The Choir sings the Anthem, O nata lux (Morten Lauridsen)*

**Sermon by Revd John Pearson-Hicks**

**Hymn:** Be thou my vision

NEH 339

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

(solo)

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,  
Be thou my whole armor, be thou my true might,  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Be thou my inheritance now and always,  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.



*There follow Prayers for God's world, which may end with,*

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

*There follow the Notices.*

*We light our candles and we stand for the hymn. Clergy process to the back of church.*

**Hymn:** Angel-voices, ever singing

NEH336

**1 Angel-voices, ever singing,  
round thy throne of light,  
angel-harps, forever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless thee  
and confess thee, Lord of might!**

**3 In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer,  
in humility,  
hearts and minds and hands and voices  
in our choicest psalmody.**

**2 Yea, we know that thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
artist's craft and music's measure  
for thy pleasure all combine.**

**4 Honour, glory, might, and merit  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
blessed Trinity!  
Of the best that thou hast given,  
earth and heaven render thee.**

## **Prayer**

*The president says*

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of thy faithful people the brilliance of thy eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to thy glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before thee in that eternal city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

**Hymn:** Of the Father's love begotten

NEH33

*During the hymn Holy Water is sprinkled on us to remind us of our baptism. As a symbol of this please make the sign of the cross, if you wish, with some water at home.*

**1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the Source, the Ending He,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see  
evermore and evermore!**

**3 Christ, to Thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
hymn and chant and high  
thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be,  
honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!**

**2 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
angel hosts, His praises sing:  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!**

### **Final Responsory**

God, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.  
**Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.  
**Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.  
**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

**Help us, who extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

**Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

**Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.**

*Minister.* The Lord be with you.

**Answer.** And with thy Spirit.

*Minister.* Let us bless the Lord.

**Answer.** Thanks be to God.

*There follows the Organ Voluntary*

***A big thank you to all who have helped with today's service.***

***We do hope you will stay for some light refreshments.***

***Special thanks to our friends at Dance into Worship.***

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