

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



EVENSONG *on* ASH WEDNESDAY

22nd February 2023

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

FAITH, BEAUTY, JUSTICE

Our Chapel is one of the most recognisable buildings in Cambridge and is home to a lively and inclusive community. You are always welcome here, whatever your beliefs or background.

St John's has a distinguished tradition of religious music and, since the 1670s, has maintained a world-famous College Choir, whose main duty is singing the daily services (Tuesday to Sunday) in the College Chapel during the University Term. The College also has another choir, St John's Voices, who sing the choral service on Monday. You will find details of all our choral services on the Chapel page of the College website.

For members of College, this is your Chapel, and we hope that you will come here for refreshment, encouragement, peace and perhaps occasionally even challenge. It is usually open from 8am until 7.30pm.

The Revd Dr Mark Oakley
Dean

The Rev'd Andrew Hammond
Chaplain

This service is being broadcast live on BBC Radio 3: we therefore ask that mobile phones are switched off and that, where possible, coughs and sneezes are suppressed. Thank you.

Please note that rubrics asking you to stand are only for those who are able to; and you are invited to join in the texts printed in bold.



The Chapel is fitted with a hearing induction loop for those who are hearing-impaired.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand at the entry of the Choir and clergy, then sit when the clergy do (the Choir remains standing). Please then stand with the clergy, which will be in response to a cue from the BBC.

The Dean offers words of welcome, and then says:

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 51. 17

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God:

Please sit or kneel.

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.

Please turn the page quietly.

The Dean gives the Absolution.

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.**

Please stand

The Chaplain and Choir sing the first set of Responses.

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.

Music *William Byrd (1543–1623)*

Please sit after the Officiant has introduced the Psalm.

PSALM 51

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum
magnam misericordiam tuam.
Et secundum multitudinem
miserationum tuarum,
dele iniquitatem meam.
Amplius lava me
ab iniquitate mea:
et a peccato meo munda me.
Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego
cognosco: et peccatum meum
contra me est semper.
Tibi soli peccavi, et malum
coram te feci: ut iustificeris in
sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum
iudicaris.
Ecce, enim in iniquitatibus
conceptus sum: et in peccatis
concepit me mater mea.
Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti:
incerta et occulta sapientiae tuae
manifestasti mihi.
Asperges me hyssopo,
et mundabor: lavabis me,
et super nivem dealbabor.
Auditui meo dabis gaudium
et laetitiam:
et exsultabunt ossa humiliata.
Averte faciem tuam a peccatis
meis: et omnes iniquitates
meas dele.
Cor mundum crea in me, Deus:
et spiritum rectum innova in
visceribus meis.

*Have mercy upon me, O God, after
thy great goodness:
according to the multitude
of thy mercies
do away mine offences.
Wash me thoroughly
from my wickedness:
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults:
and my sin is ever
before me.
Against thee only have I sinned, and
done this evil in thy sight: that thou
mightest be justified in thy saying, and
clear when thou art judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness:
and in sin hath my mother
conceived me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the
inward parts: and shalt make me to
understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and
I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me,
and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and
gladness: that the bones which thou
hast broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face from my sins:
and put out all
my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit
within me.*

Ne projicias me a facie tua:
et spiritum sanctum tuum
ne auferas a me.
Redde mihi laetitiam salutaris tui:
et spiritu principali confirma me.
Docebo iniquos vias tuas:
et impii ad te convertentur.
Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus,
Deus salutis meae: et exsultabit
lingua mea iustitiam tuam.
Domine, labia mea aperies:
et os meum annuntiabit
laudem tuam.
Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium,
dedissem utique: holocaustis
non delectaberis.
Sacrificium Deo spiritus
contribulatus: cor contritum et
humiliatum, Deus, non despicias.
Benigne fac, Domine, in bona
voluntate tua Sion:
ut aedificentur muri Jerusalem.
Tunc acceptabis sacrificium
iustitiae, oblationes, et holocausta:
tunc imponent super altare
tuum vitulos.

*Cast me not away from thy presence: and
take not thy holy Spirit
from me. O give me the comfort of thy
help again: and stablish me with thy
free spirit. Then shall I teach thy ways
unto the wicked: and sinners shall be
converted unto thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O
God, thou that art the God of my
health: and my tongue shall
sing of thy righteousness.
Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and
my mouth shall shew thy praise.
For thou desirest no sacrifice, else
would I give it thee: but thou delightest
not in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto
Sion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the
sacrifice of righteousness, with the
burnt-offerings and oblation: then
shall they offer young bullocks upon
thine altar.*

Music Gregorio Allegri (1582–1652)

FIRST LESSON

Here begins the tenth verse of the first chapter of the prophecies of Isaiah.

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Isaiah 1. 10–18

Here ends the First Lesson.

Please stand.

MAGNIFICAT: THE SONG OF MARY

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 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.
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.

Words *Luke 1. 46–55*

Music SHORT SERVICE
William Byrd (c.1543–1623)

Please sit.

SECOND LESSON

Here begins the eleventh verse of the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

Please turn the page quietly.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!"

Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

Luke 15, 11–32

Here ends the Second Lesson.

Please stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS: THE SONG OF SIMEON

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.

Words *Luke 1. 46–55*

Music SHORT SERVICE
William Byrd (c.1543–1623)

Please remain standing for the Creed, which all say, facing east.

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.

The Chaplain and Choir sing the second set of Responses, Lord's Prayer and Collects.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Please kneel or sit.

Let us pray.
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 King.
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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

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 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.

ANTHEM: IN IEIUNIO ET FLETU

In ieiunio et fletu orabant
sacerdotes:

Parce, Domine, parce
populo tuo; et ne des
haereditatem

tuam in perditionem.

Inter vestibulum et altare plorabant
sacerdotes, dicentes:

Parce populo tuo.

In fasting and weeping the
priests prayed:

Spare, Lord, spare
thy people and give not thine
heritage

over to perdition.

Between the porch and the altar
the priests lamented, saying:

Spare thy people.

THE PRAYERS

Led by the Dean, and concluding with

THE COLLEGE PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, the work of this College, which is called by the name of thy beloved disciple; and grant that love of the brethren and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of thy people, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

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.**

Please stand when invited.

HYMN

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
and awhile from joys abstain,
with thee watching unto prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain.

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine,
holier gladness ours shall be,
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

Words George Hunt Smyttan (1822–1870)
Francis Pott (1832–1909)

Tune AUS DER TIEFE
'M.H.' in 'Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch' 1676
Melody probably by Martin Herbst (1654–16810)

Please sit for the organ voluntary, as the radio broadcast will be continuing, and then stand as the Choir and Clergy depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude in E minor (BWV 548i)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

As you leave Chapel the Dean and Chaplain will be stationed near the doors to administer the Imposition of Ashes, if you would like to receive this. It is a traditional ritual for Ash Wednesday, and is a powerful and simple way to acknowledge our human fragility and mortality. A sign of the cross is made on your forehead, with the words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

COLLECTION

We are able to receive both cash donations and contactless payments using the CollecTin machine in the Ante-Chapel



OXFAM, a DEC Charity member, and other charities and their local partners are responding, working with locally-led relief efforts and need your support to reach people affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

In the early hours of 6 February, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria, followed by another earthquake soon afterwards. Many thousands of people have been killed.

Cover illustration: from an illuminated manuscript in the College archives.