Choral Evensong is a beautifully reflective church service in which the song of voices sounding together in harmony is heard at the even point between the active day and restful night, allowing listeners time for contemplation.

Originating from the combination of the two monastic services of Vespers and Compline, Evensong is one of the traditional services of the Anglican (Episcopal) Church which came into use around 1549. Composers such as William Byrd and Thomas Tallis started composing exquisite polyphonic music for Evensong some decades later, and that tradition of composing music for the service continues to this day.

The words of this ancient service connect us to the worship that has gone on in the University Chapel for centuries and will continue after us.

In these unusual times of the pandemic, we are glad to be able still to offer this service for you to participate in online during this Holy Week.

The Chapel Choir, Chaplains and readers have each recorded their sung and spoken contributions in their homes to enable us to weave together the service that would have normally taken place in the University Chapel this week.

We hope you enjoy this time of reflection in word and song.

The University of Aberdeen Multi-Faith Chaplaincy
CCLI: 546221
INTROIT

text: Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650);
music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); arr. David Blackwell (b.1961)

Drop, drop, slow tears and bathe those beauteous feet,
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace:
    cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
    to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
    nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

WELCOME

The Revd Marylee Anderson
    - Chaplain to the University of Aberdeen -

THE PRECES

music: S Wallace in G minor

O Lord, open thou our lips:
and our mouth shall show 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.
chant: Henry Walford Davis (1869-1941)

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills:
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord:
who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel:
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper:
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day:
neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in:
from this time forth for evermore.

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.
FIRST READING – Wisdom 1: 12-2: 1, 12-22

Do not invite death by the error of your life, or bring on destruction by the works of your hands; because God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal.

But the ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, ‘Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. ‘Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God’s child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected.’

Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

THE MAGNIFICAT

music: Tone VIII.i;
Fauxbourdon by Thomas Morley (1557-1602)

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.
Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God,

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus answered, ‘Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterwards.’ Peter said to him, ‘Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.’ Jesus answered, ‘Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

music: Tone V.i
Fauxbourdon by Thomas Morley (1557-1602)

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.
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 catholic Church;
the Communion of Saints;
the Forgiveness of sins;
the Resurrection of the body,
and the Life everlasting.
Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES & RESPONSES

music: S Wallace in G minor

The Lord be with you: and with thy spirit.

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, show 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.
COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God,
as we gather at the foot of the cross of thy Son,
help us to see and know thy love for us,
so that in humility, love and joy
we may place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

COLLECT FOR AID

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

text: John 13: 34-35
music: Peter Nardone (b.1965)

I give to you a new commandment,
a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another,
love one another as I have loved you,
as I have loved you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

led by Revd Marylee Anderson

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore.

Amen.

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude: Herzlich tut mich verlangen (BWV 727)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Chaplains to The University of Aberdeen
Rvd Marylee Anderson
Rvd David S. Hutchison

Readers at this service
The Rvd Dr James Garnett – Methodist Honorary Chaplain
Dr Louise Page – Lecturer: Biological Sciences

Director of Chapel and Ceremonial Music
Stuart Muir

Duncan Hopkin Conducting Scholar
Liam Dyker

Choristers of The University of Aberdeen Chapel Choir
Emma Bell
Breagha Sinclair
Lewa Oloasebikan
Evie Davidson
Martha Egner
Sravani Challagali
Amy Anderson
Olivia Smith
Naomi James-Mitchell
Roma Dhasmana

Liam Dyker
Marcus Wylie
Cade Strathern

Christopher Brighty
William Brown
Zak McCullough

Cantor – Preces and Responses
Liam Dyker

Cantors – Psalm 121
Emma Bell
Christopher Brighty

Cantors – Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis
Marcus Wylie
Cade Strathern

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