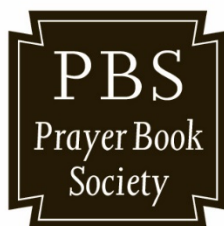


**University
Church**

***Choral Evensong
Commemoration
of the Martyrdom of
Thomas Cranmer***



Saturday 20 March 2021

4.00pm

Welcome to the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. We are delighted that you have joined us today.

Choral Evensong is a poignant part of the history and heritage of the University Church. This form of service was devised by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, as part of the Book of Common Prayer. Cranmer drew on the Christian Scriptures and the ancient monastic offices of Vespers and Compline, offering a simple, elegant framework for reflection and prayer.

Within months of the accession of Mary, a Roman Catholic, to the throne, Cranmer defended his liturgical reforms and was promptly sent to the Tower of London, and found guilty of treason. Cranmer's final opportunity for a recantation occurred here at the University Church, on 21 March 1556. He deviated from the prepared script, reasserting his reformed views, and was promptly taken to Broad Street, where he was burned at the stake. Today we commemorate all the martyrs of the Reformation period and commit ourselves to the task of reconciliation as we give thanks for our common witness in the world.

Evensong is sung today by the University Church Choir, directed by the Director of Music, Robert Howarth. The responses are sung to music by William Byrd (1543-1623) and the setting is the *Short Service* by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625). The organist is Mr James Brown.

The service is led by the Reverend Dr William Lamb, Vicar, and parts of the service are sung by the Revd Susannah Reide, the Precentor. The preacher is the Reverend Fergus Butler-Gallie, Assistant Curate at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, in the Diocese of London.

The first lesson is read by John Service, Prayer Book Churches and Clergy Co-ordinator. The second lesson is read by Jon Riding, a Trustee of the Prayer Book Society and Chairman of the Cranmer Awards Committee. The Act of Commemoration is led by the Revd Richard Smail, Branch Chaplain, Prayer Book Society, Diocese of Oxford.

Before the service the congregation are invited to pray in silence.

Minister Dearly beloved, 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:

Please kneel

All **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.**

Priest 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.

All **Amen.**

All **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.

THE PRECES

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.

Please sit

PSALM

Psalm 104
sung by the choir

Praise the Lord, O my soul : O Lord my God, thou art become exceeding glorious; thou art clothed with majesty and honour.

Thou deckest thyself with light as it were with a garment :
and spreadest out the heavens like a curtain.

Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters :
and maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind.

He maketh his angels spirits : and his ministers a flaming fire.

He laid the foundations of the earth : that it never should move at any time.

Thou coveredst it with the deep like as with a garment :
the waters stand in the hills.

At thy rebuke they flee : at the voice of thy thunder they are afraid.

They go up as high as the hills, and down to the valleys beneath :
even unto the place which thou hast appointed for them.

Thou hast set them their bounds which they shall not pass :
neither turn again to cover the earth.

He sendeth the springs into the rivers : which run among the hills.

All beasts of the field drink thereof : and the wild asses quench their thirst.

Beside them shall the fowls of the air have their habitation :
and sing among the branches.

He watereth the hills from above :
the earth is filled with the fruit of thy works.

He bringeth forth grass for the cattle :
and green herb for the service of men;

That he may bring food out of the earth, and wine that maketh glad the
heart of man : and oil to make him a cheerful countenance, and bread to
strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord also are full of sap :
even the cedars of Libanus which he hath planted;

Wherein the birds make their nests :
and the fir-trees are a dwelling for the stork.

The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats :
and so are the stony rocks for the conies.

He appointed the moon for certain seasons :
and the sun knoweth his going down.

Thou makest darkness that it may be night :
wherein all the beasts of the forest do move.

The lions roaring after their prey : do seek their meat from God.

The sun ariseth, and they get them away together :
and lay them down in their dens.

Man goeth forth to his work, and to his labour : until the evening.
O Lord, how manifold are thy works :
in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches.
So is the great and wide sea also :
wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.
There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan :
whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.
These wait all upon thee : that thou mayest give them meat in due season.
When thou givest it them they gather it :
and when thou openest thy hand they are filled with good.
When thou hidest thy face they are troubled : when thou takest away their
breath they die, and are turned again to their dust.
When thou lettest thy breath go forth they shall be made :
and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.
The glorious majesty of the Lord shall endure for ever :
the Lord shall rejoice in his works.
The earth shall tremble at the look of him :
if he do but touch the hills, they shall smoke.
I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live :
I will praise my God while I have my being.
And so shall my words please him : my joy shall be in the Lord.
As for sinners, they shall be consumed out of the earth, and the ungodly
shall come to an end : praise thou the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord.

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 LESSON

Isaiah 43.1-3a

The first lesson is written in the forty-third chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

Here endeth the first lesson.

THE MAGNIFICAT

Please stand

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 generation.
He hath shewed strength with his arm,
he hath scattered the proud in the imaginations 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.

Please sit

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Timothy 2, 8-15

The second lesson is written in second chapter of St Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, beginning at the eighth verse.

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Here endeth the second lesson.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Please stand

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.

APOSTLES' CREED

Please remain standing and face east

Minister I believe in God
All **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 LESSER LITANY

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.

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.

THE SUFFRAGES

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 COLLECT

Almighty Father, who through the work of thy servant Thomas Cranmer renewed the worship of thy Church, and through his death revealed thy strength in human weakness: strengthen us, we beseech thee, by thy grace, to worship thee in spirit and in truth, that we may come to the joys of thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

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 out 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.**

Please sit

ANTHEM

Remember not, Lord, our offences,
Nor th' offences of our forefathers;
Neither take thou vengeance of our sins,
But spare us, good Lord.
Spare thy people, whom thou has redeem'd
With thy most precious blood,
And be not angry with us for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.

Text: Exhortation and Litany (1544), by Thomas Cranmer
Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

SERMON The Reverend Fergus Butler-Gallie

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE MARTYRDOM OF THOMAS CRANMER

THE PRAYERS

At the conclusion of the prayers:

**All 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.**

HYMN

Please stand

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
Till all thy creatures own thy sway.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-93)
Tune: ST CLEMENT, C. Scholefield (1839-1904) NEH 252

THE BLESSING

Minister The peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds and in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**