

The Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Choral Evensong for the Feast of St Luke the Evangelist

Led by Revd Tim Norwood

The Cornerstone Choir
Directed by Adrian Boynton

Sunday 18th October 2020

6pm

Prelude - Prière à Notre-Dame

3rd movement in A-flat major of Suite Gothique for organ, opus 25 composed by Léon Boëllmann in 1895. Recorded to mark the 6 month anniversary of the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, in April 2020.

Introit - Almighty and Everlasting God

Composed by Orlando Gibbons, published 1641 after his death in 1625.

Almighty and everlasting God mercifully look upon our infirmities and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us through Christ our Lord Amen

Welcome by Revd Tim Norwood

Hymn - O for a thousand tongues

Words by Charles Wesley in 1739, set to melody RICHMOND composed by Thomas Haweis in 1792.

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise the glories of my God and King the triumphs of His grace! Jesus! the name that charms our fears that bids our sorrows cease
--

'tis music in the sinner's ears
'tis life and health and peace

He speaks and, listening to his voice
new life the dead receive
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice
the humble poor believe

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb
your loosened tongues employ
ye blind, behold your Saviour come
and leap, ye lame, fo!r joy

My gracious Master and my God
assist me to proclaim
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of Thy name

Preface and Confession by Revd Tim Norwood

Revd Tim Norwood:

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 cloak 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 with me:

Congregation:

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.

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.

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.

Preces and Responses Part 1

Composed by Richard Ayleward c.1661-69.

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

Psalms 146-147

Psalm 146 chant in A by James Turle and Psalm 147 chant in E by Joseph Barnby from the Worcester Psalter pointed.

1. Praise the Lord, O my soul
while I live will I praise the Lord
Yea as long as I have any being
I will sing praises to my God
2. Put not your trust in princes
nor in any child of man
for there is no help in them
3. When the breath of man goeth forth
he will turn again to his earth
and then all his thoughts perish
4. Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help
and whose hope is in the Lord his God
5. Who made heaven and earth
the sea and all that therein is
who keepeth his promise for ever
6. Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong
and feedeth the hungry
7. The Lord looseth men out of prison
the Lord giveth sight to the blind
8. The Lord helpeth them that are fallen
the Lord careth for the righteous;
9. he Lord careth for the strangers
He defendeth the father-less and widow
As for the ungodly he turneth it upside down
10. The Lord they God O Sion shall be King for evermore
and throughout all generations

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

1. 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

2. The Lord doth build up Jerusalem
and gather together the outcasts of Israel
3. He healeth those that are broken in heart
and giveth medicine to heal their sickness
4. He telleth the number of the stars
and calleth them all by their names
5. Great is our Lord, and great is his power
Yea, and his wisdom is infinite
6. The Lord setteth up the meek
and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground
7. O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving
sing praises upon the harp unto our God
8. Who covereth the heaven with clouds
and prepareth rain for the earth
and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains
and herb for the use of men
9. Who giveth fodder unto the cattle
and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him
10. He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse
neither delighteth he in any man's legs
11. But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him
and put their trust in his mercy
12. Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem
praise thy God, O Sion.

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- Isaiah 55

Read by Revd Dr Margaret Goodall

Come, all you who are thirsty, to the waters!
And you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend money for what is not bread?
And spend your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Incline your ear and come to me; hear, and your soul will live.
And I will cut an everlasting covenant with you,
like the reliable covenant promises I made to David.

Behold, I have given him for a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander to the peoples.

Behold, you will call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you will run to you,
because of Yahweh your God and for the Holy One of Israel;
for he has glorified you.”

Seek Yahweh while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

Let the wicked person forsake his way
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
and let him return to Yahweh,
and he will have mercy on him;
and let him return to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

”For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
says Yahweh.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow comes down from heaven
and does not return there,
but waters the earth
and makes it bring forth and bud
and gives seed to the sower
and bread to the eater,
so will my word be that goes forth out of my mouth;
it will not return to me void,
but it will accomplish what I please,
and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.

For you will go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth into singing before you,
and all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.

³Instead of the thorn will come up the fir tree,
and instead of the brier will come up the myrtle tree;
and it will be to Yahweh for a name,
for an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.”

REV

Magnificat

Words: Luke 1:46-55. Song of the Virgin Mary from the Second Service composed by William Byrd c. 1560.

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 forever

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 - Luke 10:1-9

Read by Richard May-Miller

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two on ahead and sent them in pairs to every town and place he himself intended to visit.

2 He said to them, "The crop is heavy, but the labourers are few. Ask the owner therefore to send out labourers to bring in the harvest.

3 Be on your way. I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

4 Carry no purse or pack and travel barefoot; exchange no greetings on the road.

5 "When you go into a house, let your first words be 'Peace to this house.'

6 If there is a man of peace, there your peace will rest on him ; if not, it will return to you.

7 Stay in that house, sharing their food and drink, for the worker deserves his pay. Do not move around from house to house.

8 When you enter a town and you are made welcome, eat the food provided for you.

9 Heal the sick there and say, 'The kingdom of God has come upon you'.

REV

Nunc Dimittis

Words: Luke 2:29-32, "Now lettest Thou thy servant rest in peace". Song of Simeon from the Second Service composed by William Byrd c. 1560.

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

Creed read by Revd Tim Norwood

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.

Preces and Responses Part 2

Composed by Richard Ayleward c.1661-69. Sung by the choir.

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 who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. 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.

Amen

Amen

Amen

Anthem - Os Justi

Words from Psalm 37:30-31, 539 BCE. Gregorian chant used as gradual of the Commune Doctorum, WAB 30 composed by Anton Bruckner in 1879

Os justi meditabitur sapientiam
et lingua ejus loquetur iudicium
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus
Alleluia

translation:

*The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom
and his tongue speaks what is just*

*The law of his God is in his heart
and his feet do not falter*

Alleluia

Intercessions read by Revd Tim Norwood

Heavenly father on this the feast of Saint Luke we remember all those who are involved in healing in all sorts of forms: those who work to heal the body, the mind or the spirit. We pray particularly for the NHS and for all those who work on the front line particularly during the Coronavirus epidemic; for those who sometimes put their own lives on the line for the sake of others. We also pray for those who work for the healing of people's minds at a time when many of us are under more pressure than ever before. Lord grant to your people the gifts and

the calling to heal and work for the healing of others and help us all in the ways that we speak and act and pray to become agents of healing and peace and reconciliation.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

On this feast of Saint Luke we pray for all those who are historians who take a record of the things that they see and pass it on to others; for those who are bearing witness to the things they see in the news and in the world around them. And so we pray not only for those who make records of things long gone, we also pray for people who tell the stories of today, help us to proclaim truth and not attempt to obscure the truth behind slogans and false promises. Help us as a community to be people who value the truth and the quest for the truth.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And on this day we pray for people, both here in Milton Keynes and across the world who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those whose health is under threat but also for those whose livelihood, whose employment, whose ability to eat or provide for their family has been put at risk by the pandemic and the consequences of it. Lord we pray for healing, not only for individuals but also for communities, for justice and for reconciliation. Lord pour out your spirit upon us and all your people so that we would know your blessings, respond to your call and seek your kingdom both in the age to come and in the places where we find ourselves

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And so lord we offer ourselves to you. We may not be physicians or healers or historians or journalists, but we are people who you call. So grant us healing and hope but also purpose, help us to serve you, not just in the church but also in the world amongst the people you call us to love.

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn - Christ's is the world in which we move

Composed by John Lamberton Bell of the Iona Community in 1989. Traditional Scottish melody DREAM ANGUS specially arranged by Adrian Boynton for live broadcast of BBC Songs Of Praise, Easter 1992.

Christ is the world in which we move
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care
and Christ's is the one who calls us here

*To the lost Christ shows his face
to the unloved He gives his embrace
To those who cry in pain or disgrace*

Christ makes with his friends a touching place

Feel for the people we must avoid
strange or bereaved or never employed
Feel for the women and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain

*To the lost Christ shows his face
to the unloved He gives his embrace
To those who cry in pain or disgrace
Christ makes with his friends a touching place*

Feel for the parents who've lost their child
Feel for the women whom men have defiled
Feel for the baby for whom there's no breast
and feel for the weary who find no rest

*To the lost Christ shows his face
to the unloved He gives his embrace
To those who cry in pain or disgrace
Christ makes with his friends a touching place*

Feel for the lives by life confused
riddled with doubt, in loving abused
Feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin
which long to be pure but fears to begin

*To the lost Christ shows his face
to the unloved He gives his embrace
To those who cry in pain or disgrace
Christ makes with his friends a touching place*

Address by Revd Tim Norwood

In this service we are remembering Luke, who Paul referred to as the beloved physician. We don't know much about him, but one of the great stories is that he was some kind of physician or healer. And so today is always a good occasion on which to remember those who work in healing professions: those who are doctors, nurses, carers in all sorts of ways. And at this time, as we are still facing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, it is particularly good to remember those who are called to heal.

Luke was also a historian. He was someone whose job was to record the things that first of all Jesus did, the gospel stories that he received from others, but then later to record the stories and events that impacted the early church and particularly Paul (with whom he travelled on many occasions and knew to the end of Paul's life).

Luke is a very interesting character for us to remember as we contemplate the world around us at this time. Luke as a physician, as a healer, reminds us of our call as Christians, as God's people to be agents of healing in this world, and his role as a historian reminds us of the importance of taking truth seriously. We live in a world where often we're told we live in a post-truth world, where fake news can have more impact than the truth that might exist behind it. But we are called to keep seeking for the reality that exists beyond the headlines. And it's with these true two poles of the physician (the healer) and the truth seeker that I think we come to celebrate Luke this evening.

There is this one tradition which may or may not be true that Luke was one of the group of 70 who were sent out by Jesus to travel the lengths and the breadths of the country: visiting different towns, visiting different houses - which of course would not be allowed at this point in 2020 - although he did stay in houses and not move around. There is this tradition that Luke may have been one of those 70 who was sent who experienced what God could do and came back rejoicing. That may or may not be true but it is an important story again for us - a reminder that Jesus doesn't just send a few people, but he sends us all out to seek the Kingdom, to seek the Kingdom. It is the call of the church to proclaim the fact that the Kingdom of Heaven is near; it's coming near each day. It reveals itself in every sign of love, in every sign of hope. Whenever we engage in the healing work of Christ, the Kingdom is coming near. Whenever we discover the truth behind the lies, the Kingdom is coming near. And each day we are called to be its agents, and to be and to proclaim the truth of the Kingdom: not just in words but also in action. So in the midst of the pandemic, in the midst of lock-down, in the midst of a rapidly changing world, Luke shines a light on the people that we are called to be. So may we be people of the gospel; people of the Kingdom; people of the Truth; people of healing and hope in a broken world.

Hymn - We have a Gospel to proclaim

Words by Edward Joseph Burns in 1968, set to melody FULDA arranged by William Gardiner in 1815. Descant by Adrian Boynton.

Blessing by Revd Tim Norwood

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds 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 with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Sung Blessing - Go Forth into the World in Peace

Words from the Book of Common Prayer published in 1892, set to music by John Rutter in 1990.

Go forth into the world in peace

be of good courage

be of good courage

Go forth into the world in peace

be of good courage

be of good courage

Hold fast that which is good

render to no one evil for evil

strengthen the faint-hearted

support the weak

help the afflicted

honour all people

love and serve the Lord

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

and the blessing of God almighty

the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost

be among you and remain with you forever

Amen

Amen

Postlude - Adagio from Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C

BWV 564 composed by Johann Sebastian Bach 1710, arranged for piano by Adrian Boynton.