



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Ecumenical Choral Evening Prayer for the Feast of the Transfiguration

led by the Reverend Tim Norwood

with the Choir of Christ the Cornerstone

Michael Chamberlain (organ)

directed by Adrian Boynton

Sunday, 15 August 2021
6pm

[duration 1:03:10]

Music before the Service

Adagio from Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C. BWV 564 composed by Johann Sebastian Bach 1710, arranged for piano and performed by Adrian Boynton.

Introit

[4:50]

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus est pro perditis,
nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

*O light born of light, Jesus, redeemer of all ages,
deign to accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants.
You, who deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost,
make us to become members of your mystical body.*

Composed by Thomas Tallis 1575.

Welcome – the Reverend Tim Norwood

[6:54]

Opening Responses - Adrian Boynton

[7:16]

Cantor: The world belongs to God

Response: the earth and all its people

Cantor: How good and lovely it is

Response: to live together in unity

Cantor: Love and faith come together

Response: justice and peace join hands

Cantor: If the Lord's disciples keep silent

Response: these stones would shout aloud

Cantor: God, open our lips

Response: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Hymn

[8:35]

'Tis good, Lord, to be here, thy glory fills the night;
thy face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here, thy beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand, thy messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past, promise of things to be,
we hail thy body glorified, and our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, we see thy kingdom come;
we fain would hold the vision bright, and make this hill our home.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here, yet we may not remain;
but since thou bidst us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Words by Joseph Armitage Robinson 1888,
set to the melody CARLISLE composed by Charles Lockhart 1791.

Prayer of Adoration

[10:59]

Minister: From before the world began, and after the end of eternity

All: **You are God**

Minister: From the sea bursting out of its womb, to the wind ceasing from its chase.

All: **You are God**

Minister: In the constancy of created things, and in their fickleness.

All: **You are God**

Minister: In the vastness of the universe and the forgotten corners of our hearts.

All: **You are God. You are God, and we bless you.**

Prayer of Confession

[11:40]

Minister: We have been singing praises with our voices, and kept the joy out of our hearts.
We have prayed only for what was possible and hoped only for what we could see.

All sing: **Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

Minister: We have allowed waiting on you to slip into laziness
and waiting on your Kingdom to be replaced with apathy.
We have only thought of us waiting on you
and never pondered how you wait on us.

Ladies sing: **Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.**

Minister: We have prayed for truth to set us free and chosen instead the slavery of silence.
We have prayed for the transformation of society
and not expected to have to change ourselves.

All sing: **Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

Minister: Listen, for this is the true word of God.
Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.
God is merciful, and God's love is sure and strong.

All: **Amen.**



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Psalm 97

[14:19]

The Lord is King the earth may be glad thereof:
yea the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof.

Clouds and darkness are round about him:
Righteousness and judgement are the habitation of his seat.

There shall go a fire before him:
and burn up his enemies on every side.
His lightnings gave shine unto the world:
The earth saw it and was afraid.
The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens have declared his righteousness:
and all the people have seen his glory.

Confounded be all they that worship carved images and that delight in vain gods:
Worship him all ye gods.

Sion heard of it and rejoiced and the daughters of Judah were glad
because of thy judgements O Lord.

For thou Lord art higher than all that are in the earth:
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

O ye that love the Lord see that ye hate the thing which is evil:
he shall deliver them from the hand of the ungodly.

There is sprung up a light for the righteous,
and joyful gladness for such as are true hearted.
Rejoice in the Lord ye righteous:
and give thanks for a remembrance of his holiness.

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 reading – Daniel 7, 9-10, 13-14 [Revised English Bible]

[17:56]

Magnificat

[19:29]

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour;
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him: in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm:
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones:
and has lifted up the lowly.



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

He has filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel:
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers:
to Abraham and his seed forever.

The song of Mary [Luke 1:46-55]
from the Wakefield service composed by Andrew Carter 1986.

New Testament reading – Mark 9:2-10 [Revised English Bible]

[25:25]

Nunc Dimittis

[27:19]

Lord, now let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation:
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
a light, to reveal you to the nations:
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning
is now and shall be forever. Amen.

The song of Simeon [Luke 2:29-32]
from the Wakefield service composed by Andrew Carter 1986.

Reading from another source

[31:01]

From that one moment, 'in and out of time',
on that one mountain where all moments meet,
The daily veil that covers the sublime
in darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
just living glory full of truth and grace.

The love that dances at the heart of things
shone out upon us from a human face
and to that light the light in us leaped up,
we felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
a sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
trembled and tingled through the tender skin.

Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.

'Transfiguration' a poem by Malcolm Guite 2012.



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Hymn

[33:06]

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,

Composed with words by Dave Evans 1986.

Address – the Reverend Tim Norwood

[35:47]

I don't know if you've ever seen one of those wonderful pictures that consist of shapes and colours, all merged and blended together on a poster or in a book. These wonderful pictures, when you look at them you don't see anything for a while; and if you look at them *just right* something happens and you are able to see it: a shape emerging out of the picture. Or maybe you've looked at one of those illustrations, those visual illusions, perhaps that wonderful one of the old lady and, if you look at it *slightly differently*, you can see a young lady – all on the same piece of paper.

The Transfiguration is about seeing things differently. It's one of those stories in the Bible, one of those wonderful stories about Jesus that has been told for 2000 years. And some people find it difficult, it seems so mystical, so odd, so unusual. And yet the gospel writers put it in pride of place, and in telling the story of Jesus, it comes at that really crucial point, right in the middle of the story, where we shift from the growth in the ministry of Jesus and move toward the crucifixion and resurrection.

This is this wonderful story, the Transfiguration. And what it is, is a bit like those pictures, where one moment the world seems one way, and the next it seems completely different. One moment the world is transformed: Jesus is transfigured. He appears different, he seems different, he IS different. And the disciples see Jesus not through their own eyes, but through the eyes of God. They hear God speaking and tell them what they see, what they are experiencing. It is a moment of transfiguration.

And for us in the world today, this story retains its significance. It's all too easy to be lost in the difficulties of everyday life and all the things we can see and touch, which seem so important, so real so powerful, it's easy to feel restricted, limited by the powers of this world, the way the world seems to be. And yet God invites us to see the world differently: God invites us to see the world transformed, as it might be. To see the world as He sees it, with the values of The Kingdom, not the values of the world. And in some of those moments the world, the Church, each of us are transfigured, and we see things differently. I wonder in 2021, how the world might look if we see it as God sees, how we might see each other, who we might think of as being valuable and important, what we might think of as being possible, where we might be led in our own journey of discipleship. But it begins often with a moment of transfiguration. And I pray that today we will see God at work again in the world, and He will call you to respond in love and action. In the name of Christ, Amen.



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Choir

[39:18]

*God is light and in him is no darkness at all.
Thou also shalt light my candle;
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be light.
The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom then shall I be afraid?
God is light and in him is no darkness at all. Alleluia.*

From John 1:5, Psalms 18:28, 27:1 composed by Harry Bramma 2011

Prayers of Petition and Intercession

[42:53]

All sing: **O Lord, hear my prayer O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer O Lord, hear my prayer,
come and listen to me.**

Minister: We pray for this world; for those who are marginalized or forgotten because they are not seen as being valuable; where those who are rich and powerful see God in those who are not. Lord, come and listen.

All sing: [...]

Minister: We pray for the church throughout the world, let us be a community of the Transfiguration. May we see and hear Christ in our midst and act like people of the Resurrection. Lord, come and listen.

All sing: [...]

Minister: And we pray for ourselves, may we see Christ in those around us, may we hear the voice of Christ through those around us, and may we understand ourselves through the mind and heart of God. Lord, come and listen.

All sing: [...]

The Lord's Prayer **[42:53]**

Minister: So let us gather our prayers as we say the words that Jesus taught:

All: **Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive them who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
Are yours now and forever. Amen.**



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Hymn

[47:52]

Christ is the world's true light,
its Captain of salvation,
the Day-star clear and bright
of every man and nation;
New life, new hope awakes,
where'er men own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord,
men shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare bear the sword,
to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name
unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign. Amen.

Words by George Wallace Briggs 1933,
set to the melody NUN DANKET, last verse arranged by Adrian Boynton.

Final Prayers

[50:17]

Minister: Gracious God, you have given us much today;
grant us also a thankful spirit.
Into your hands we commend ourselves and those we love.
Stay with us for the service of your son, Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

All: **In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us heavenly Father
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**



Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Milton Keynes

Closing Responses

[51:01]

Cantor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

Response: the light no darkness can overcome.

Cantor: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

Response: and the day is almost over.

Cantor: Let your light scatter the darkness

Response: and shine through your church.

Cantor: You, Christ, are the King of Glory,

Response: you are the everlasting Son of the Father.

Cantor: When you drew the sting of death

Response: you opened heaven to all who trust in you.

Cantor: Come then, we pray, to the aid of your people

Response: we are bought at the price of your own precious blood.

Cantor: Mercy, peace and love be ours for ever

Response: from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Grace

[53:22]

Minister: So let us finish by saying the Grace together.

All: **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.**

Hymn

[53:44]

Te lucis ante terminum rerum Creator poscimus
ut pro tua clementia sis praesul et custodia.
Procul recedant somnia et noctium phantasmata
Hostemque nostrum comprime ne polluantur corpora.
Praesta, Pater piissime Patrique compar unice,
cum Spiritu Paraclito regnans per omne saeculum. Amen

*Thee, Lord, before the close of day, maker of all things, Thee we pray
for Thy dear loving kindness' sake to guard and guide us in Thy way.
Banish the dreams that terrify, and night's fantastic company:
keep us from Satan's tyranny. defend us from unchastity.
Protect us, Father, God adored, Thou too, co-equal Son and Lord,
Thou, Holy Ghost, our advocate, whose reign can know nor bound nor date. Amen*

Compline hymn from the 5th century, composed by Henry Balfour Gardiner 1908.

Recessional music

[58:40]

Méditation from the opera 'Thaïs' composed by Jules Massenet 1894.
Performed by Katie Neaves (violin) and Adrian Boynton (piano).