

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



EVENSONG

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF
ST JOHN FISHER

(1469–1535)

Thursday 19th October 2023

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

FAITH, BEAUTY, JUSTICE

Welcome to this service, which marks the birthday of a man whose contribution to the foundation of the College was uniquely significant. We are also delighted and honoured to welcome the Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía.

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. In addition, St John's Voices sing Evensong on Monday evenings. 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. During term time it is usually open from 8am until 7.30pm.

The Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley
Dean

The Rev'd Andrew Hammond
Chaplain

*Please note that rubrics asking you to stand are only for those who are able to;
and we invite you 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

INTROIT

Sung by the Choir in the Ante-Chapel.

Ave, Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum:
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus
ventris tui. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace;
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb. Amen.*

Words *traditional Christian prayer
based on Luke 1. 28, 42*

Music *Robert Parsons (1530–1570)*

All stand at the entry of the Choir and Clergy.

The Dean welcomes the congregation.

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 *Philip Radcliffe (1905–1986)*

Please sit.

PSALM 25. 1–8

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul;
my God, I have put my trust in thee:
O let me not be confounded,
neither let mine enemies triumph over me.
For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed:
but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.
Shew me thy ways, O Lord: and teach me thy paths.
Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me:
for thou art the God of my salvation;
in thee hath been my hope all the day long.
Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies:
and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth:
but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord,
for thy goodness.
Gracious and righteous is the Lord:
therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
Them that are meek shall he guide in judgement:
and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.

Please stand.

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.

Chant *H J Gauntlett (1805–1876)*

Please sit.

FIRST LESSON

Read by The Master.

Here begins the third verse of the 40th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Here ends the First Lesson.

Isaiah 40. 3–11

Please stand.

MAGNIFICAT: THE SONG OF MARY

During which the altar is censed.

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 SERVICE IN G
Francis Jackson (1917–2022)

Please sit.

SECOND LESSON

Read by Dr Sylvana Tomaselli.

Here begins the 57th verse of the first chapter of the Gospel of St Luke.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.

All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

Luke 1. 57–66, 80

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 2. 29–32*

Music SERVICE IN G
Francis Jackson (1917–2022)

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, the 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 God, the light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who set thy servant John Fisher to be a bishop in the Church, to feed thy sheep by the word of Christ and to guide them by good example: give us grace to keep the faith of the Church and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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.

Music *Philip Radcliffe*

ANTHEM

Christus vincit,
Christus regnat,
Christus imperat. Alleluia!

*Christ conquers,
Christ is King,
Christ is Lord of all. Alleluia!*

PRAYERS

Led by the Dean.

HYMN

Please stand.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight,
and to the rescue came.

O generous love! that he who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo.

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Words *St John Henry Newman (1801–1890)*

Tune GERONTIUS
J. B. Dykes (1823–1876)

Please remain standing.

THE COLLEGE PRAYER AND BLESSING

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.

God give you grace to follow John Fisher and all his saints in faith and love and steadfastness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Apostolic Nuncio gives a Blessing in Latin.

Please remain standing as the Choir and Clergy depart.