

CHRIST'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



A SERVICE OF
CHORAL EVENSONG

Introit & Welcome

The Choir sings the Introit, after which the Chaplain gives words of welcome and introduces the Confession.

*I know my soul hath power to know all things,
Yet she is blind and ignorant in all:
I know I'm one of nature's little kings,
Yet to the least and vilest things am thrall.*

*I know my life's a pain and but a span;
I know my sense is mock'd in ev'rything;
And, to conclude, I know myself a Man,
Which is proud and yet a wretched thing.*

Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

General Confession

Minister: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us:

But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1.8-9)

Let us confess our sins together to our Heavenly Father.

**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.

Minister: Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Choir sings the Opening Responses (Rose)

Opening 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.

First reading: Ezra 3.8-11

⁸ In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak and the rest of the people (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work. They appointed Levites twenty years old and older to supervise the building of the house of the Lord. ⁹ Joshua and his sons and brothers and Kadmiel and his sons (descendants of Hodaviah) and the sons of Henadad and their sons and brothers – all Levites – joined together in supervising those working on the house of God.

¹⁰ When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. ¹¹ With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love towards Israel endures for ever.'

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

The Choir sings the Magnificat (Howells, Gloucester Service)

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

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.

Second reading: 1 Peter 2.4-10

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

‘See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.’

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,’

⁸ and,

‘A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Choir sings the Nunc Dimittis (Howells, Gloucester Service).

The Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:29-32)

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 is said, traditionally facing east.

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 Responses

The Choir sings the Responses (Rose).

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, 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 First Collect, for the Day:

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Second 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 Third 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.**

The prayers conclude with the Grace, which is said together:

May 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.

The Anthem

The Choir sings the Anthem (Finzi)

*Lo, the full, final Sacrifice
On which all figures fix't their eyes.
The ransomed Isaac, and his ram;
The Manna, and the Paschal Lamb.*

*Jesu Master, just and true!
Our Food, and faithful Shepherd too!*

*O let that love which thus makes thee
Mix with our low Mortality,
Lift our lean Souls, and set us up
Convictors of thine own full cup,
Coheirs of Saints. That so all may
Drink the same wine; and the same Way,
Nor change the Pasture, but the Place,
To feed of Thee in thine own Face.*

*O dear Memorial of that Death
Which lives still, and allows us breath!
Rich, Royal food! Bountiful Bread!
Whose use denies us to the dead!*

*Live ever Bread of loves, and be
My life, my soul, my surer self to me.*

*Help Lord, my Faith, my Hope increase;
And fill my portion in thy peace.
Give love for life; nor let my days
Grow, but in new powers to thy name and praise.*

*Rise, Royal Zion! rise and sing
Thy soul's kind shepherd, thy heart's king.
Stretch all thy powers; call if you can*

*Harps of heaven to hands of man.
This soveriegn subject sits above
The best ambition of thy love.*

*Lo the Bread of Life, this day's
Triumphant Text provokes thy praise.
The living and life-giving bread,
To the great twelve distributed.
When Life, himself, at point to die
Of love, was his own Legacy.*

*O soft self-wounding Pelican!
Whose breast weeps Balm for wounded man.
All this way bend thy benign flood
To a bleeding Heart that gasps for blood.
That blood, whose least drops sovreign be
To wash my worlds of sins from me.*

*Come love! Come Lord! and that long day
For which I languish, come away.
When this dry soul those eyes shall see,
And drink the unseal'd source of thee.
When Glory's sun faith's shades shall chase,
And for thy veil give me thy Face. Amen.*

Words St Thomas Aquinas

The Chaplain pronounces a final blessing.

The peace of God, which passeth 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 upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.