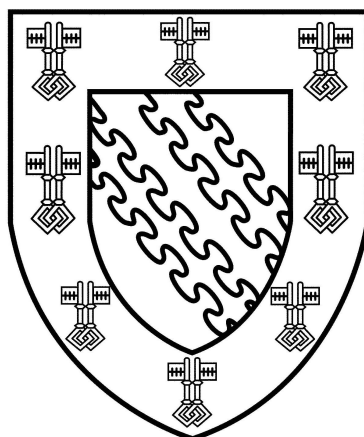
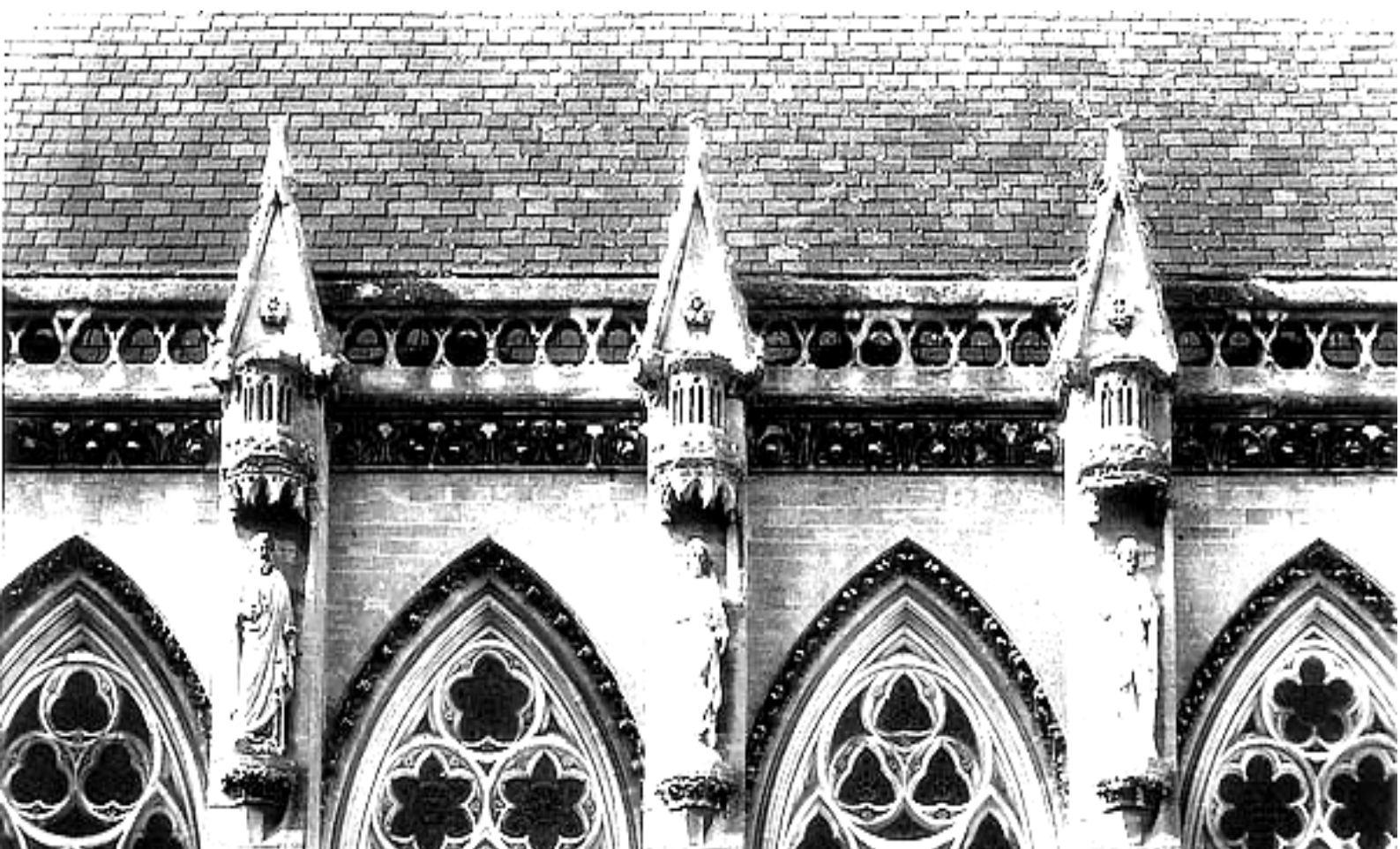


# EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL



## CHORAL EVENSONG

4 June 2021



# WELCOME TO EXETER COLLEGE CHAPEL

## COVID REGULATIONS

We offer worship as a time of peace, reflection, and hope. In order for the service to be safe and therefore allow you to focus on worshipping or being still, we ask that you please observe the covid-protocols:

- Face coverings must be worn at all times.
- Please check in via the NHS COVID-19 app or fill in the Track and Trace form at each pew.
- An usher will direct you to an available seat. Please take your order of service with you.
- Please refrain from singing.
- Please exit the Chapel as directed by the ushers and take your order of service with you.

*This service of Choral Evensong is a product of the Reformation, whereby sections from the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline were combined to produce one of the gems of Anglican liturgy. Evensong is, at its core, a service of the Word of God: the readings, canticles responses, and some of the prayers are taken from Holy Scripture. This is enhanced by choral settings of some parts of the service, adding to the mystery and bringing alive these ancient texts.*

*Daily prayer has been offered in the College Chapel since its foundation by Walter de Stapledon in 1314. The prayers of today join with those of our predecessors, as we continue to pray for the life of the College, our Livings, the University, and World.*

*Choral Evensong is a profoundly beautiful service, although if this is your first experience of it you may find some of it puzzling. To help with this, on the left-hand pages of this booklet is a brief guide and commentary, explaining the service.*



*The service starts with a hymn. This is followed by the Preces, short prayers of praise, glorifying God, who, as the Gloria [Glory be to the Father &c] states is Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*The Psalm, Lessons, and Canticles*

*After an initial act of praise the service chances to focus on the Word of God. One or several psalms are sung by the choir; there are two readings, one from the Hebrew Bible and one from the New Testament. These are interspersed with the canticles, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Both are taken from Luke's Gospel, and are Mary and Simeon's response to the revelation of God and his love for them and the world. At Choral Evensong the choir sings the psalm and canticles on behalf of the congregation. You may like to use this as an opportunity to enjoy being enveloped in music, to pray the words they sing, or simply to listen.*

# THE ORDER FOR CHORAL EVENSONG

## HYMN

Come, let us join our cheerful songs  
with angels round the throne.  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
but all their joys are one.

"Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry,  
"to be exalted thus!"  
"Worthy the Lamb," our hearts reply,  
"for he was slain for us!"

Jesus is worthy to receive  
honor and power divine;  
and blessings more than we can give,  
be, Lord, forever thine.

The whole creation join in one,  
to bless the sacred Name  
of him who sits upon the throne,  
and to adore the Lamb.

*Words: I. Watts,  
Music: Nativity. H. Lahee*

*The service is introduced*

## THE PRECES

*Sumsion*

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.  
Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.  
Minister: O God, make speed to save us.  
Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

¶ *All stand*

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

Minister: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

¶ *Please sit as the Choir sings the Psalms of the Day*

## PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God \* and the firmament sheweth his handywork. One day telleth another \* and one night certifieth another. There is neither speech nor language \* but their voices are heard among them. Their sound is gone out into all lands \* and their words into the ends of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun \* which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course. It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven, and runneth about unto the end of it again \* and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul \* the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart \* the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever \* the judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold \* sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb. Moreover, by them is thy servant taught \* and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can tell how oft he offendeth \* O cleanse thou me from my secret faults. Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me \* so shall I be undefiled, and innocent from the great offence. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart \* be alway acceptable in thy sight, O Lord \* my strength, and my redeemer.

## PSALM 20

The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble \* the Name of the God of Jacob defend thee ; Send thee help from the sanctuary \* and strengthen thee out of Sion; Remember all thy offerings \* and accept thy burnt-sacrifice; Grant thee thy heart's desire \* and fulfil all thy mind. We will rejoice in thy

salvation, and triumph in the Name of the Lord our God \* the Lord perform all thy petitions. Now know I, that the Lord helpeth his Anointed, and will hear him from his holy heaven \* even with the wholesome strength of his right hand. Some put their trust in chariots, and some in horses \* but we will remember the Name of the Lord our God. They are brought down, and fallen \* but we are risen, and stand upright. Save, Lord, and hear us, O King of heaven \* when we call upon thee.

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Ruth 2*

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favour.' She said to her, 'Go, my daughter.' So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, 'The Lord be with you.' They answered, 'The Lord bless you.' Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, 'To whom does this young woman belong?' The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, 'She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers." So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.'

Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.' Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favour in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?' But Boaz answered her, 'All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full

reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!’ Then she said, ‘May I continue to find favour in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.’

At mealtime Boaz said to her, ‘Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine.’ So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, ‘Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her. You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.’

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. Then she took out and gave her what was left over after she herself had been satisfied. Her mother-in-law said to her, ‘Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.’ So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, ‘The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.’ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, ‘Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!’ Naomi also said to her, ‘The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.’ Then Ruth the Moabite said, ‘He even said to me, “Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest.”’ Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, ‘It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.’ So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

¶ *All stand*

## MAGNIFICAT

*Evening Service in F, Ireland*

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 we 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.

*Luke 1. 46 – 55*

¶ *All sit*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Revelation 5*

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the



elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

¶ *All stand*

#### NUNC DIMITTIS

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.

*Luke 2. 29 – 32*

## *The Apostles' Creed*

*After the Nunc Dimittis we turn to face the Altar to recite the Apostles' Creed. If you have no faith, please do not feel obligated to say the words. Traditionally all turn to face the altar, liturgical east, to remind us that Christianity is a faith illuminated by the light of the resurrection dawn. The Apostles' Creed was developed by the early Church as a teaching tool for those preparing for baptism, and thus admission to the church. Today the Creed serves as a summary of Christian belief.*

## *The Lesser Litany and Responses*

*Like the preces, the lesser litany and responses are short petitions to God; some are taken from scripture, others from ancient texts of the church. The Lord's Prayer, common to all Christians, reminds us that we are not just praying in Exeter Chapel but form a worldwide fellowship.*

*The responses are 'soundbite prayers': they reflect some of the general needs of society as well as our relationship with God. Situated after the bible readings they illustrate how prayer and praise are our responses to God's love.*

¶ *Remain standing and turn towards the altar*

## 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 Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of Sins  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE LESSER LITANY

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

¶ *All kneel or sit*

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.**

Minister: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Minister: O Lord, save the Queen.

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister: O Lord, save thy people.

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Minister: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us  
but only thou, O God.

Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal  
Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity. We  
beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and  
evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God,  
world without end.

Choir: Amen.

## *The Collects*

*This section of prayer concludes with the collects. These are longer prayers than the responses, and many were translated or composed by Thomas Cranmer when the first prayer book was compiled in 1549. At Evensong the first collect is associated with the specific date or festival, the last two collects do not change.*

## *The Anthem*

*The Prayer Book introduces the anthem; ‘in quires and places where they sing, here followeth the anthem’, and as such the anthem of today finds its roots Anglican worship. The words are often taken from scripture, but poetry, prose, and a combination of all three are common.*

## *The Prayers and Dismissal*

*More informal prayers follow, when we pray specifically for the College, the World, those in need and ourselves. Through prayer we ask for grace to continue the work of sharing God’s love in our own day, in our relationships, and in all our endeavours. A hymn and dismissal conclude the service. The dismissal sentences are taken from Psalm 121, and are unique to Exeter College Chapel.*

## AT EVENING PRAYER

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.

Choir: Amen.

## 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.

Choir: Amen.

¶ *All sit*

## THE ANTHEM

Our Father, whose creative Will  
Asked Being for us all,

Confirm it that Thy Primal Love  
May weave in us the freedom of  
The actually deficient on  
The justly actual.

Though written by Thy children with  
A smudged and crooked line,  
Thy Word is ever legible,  
Thy Meaning unequivocal,  
And for Thy Goodness even sin  
Is valid as a sign.

Inflict Thy promises with each  
Occasion of distress,  
That from our incoherence we  
May learn to put our trust in Thee.  
And brutal fact persuade us to  
Adventure, Art, and Peace.

*Words: W.H. Auden*

*Music: R. Saxton*

## THE PRAYERS

Ending with:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,  
be with us all ever more. Amen.**

¶ *Please remain seated as the choir sings:*

My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die,  
the Lord my Saviour liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?

*Words: Anon, first published New York*

*Music: R. Lowry*

## THE DISMISSAL

The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in.  
**From this time forth, for ever more. Amen.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Conte Lutyens*