

ThirdArts

presents

The Chancel Choir of
Third Presbyterian Church
Rochester, New York

A Service of
Choral Evensong

John Wilkinson, *Pastor*
Peter DuBois, *Director of Music/Organist*
Caroline Robinson, *Assistant Organist*

Sunday May 31, 2015
4:00 p.m.

Psalm 93

The Lord is King and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel and girded himself with strength. ²He hath made the round world so sure that it cannot be moved. ³Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared: thou art from everlasting. ⁴The floods are risen O Lord, the floods have lift up their voice: the floods lift p their waves. ⁵The waves of the sea are mighty and rage horribly: but yet the Lord who dwelleth on high is mightier. ⁶Thy testimonies O Lord are very sure: holiness becometh thine hose 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 11:1-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT IN C

Bryan Kelly

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. 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 shown 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 rememb'ring His mercy hath holpen His servant Israel; as He promised to our forefathers Abraham and His seed forever. *(Canticle of Mary - Luke 1:46-55)*

(All 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NUNC DIMITTIS IN C

Bryan Kelly

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. (*Prayer of Simeon - Luke 2:29-32*)

(All 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.

+THE APOSTLES' CREED *(sung by all)*

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.

RESPONSES

Setting: James Buonemani

Precentor: The Lord be with you;

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Precentor: Let us pray.

Choir: 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. Amen.

Precentor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Precentor: O Lord, save the State.

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

Precentor: Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Precentor: O Lord, save thy people;

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Precentor: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

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

Precentor: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

(The Precentor sings three special prayers: one for the day, one for peace, and one for aid against all dangers.)

ANTHEMS "Seek him that maketh the seven stars" Jonathan Dove

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is light about
me. Amen.

- Amos 5:8; Psalm 139

"Evening Hymn" Henry Balfour Gardiner

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.

- from the Latin compline hymn, "Te lucis ante terminum"

PRAYERS *(various prayers are offered, ending with The Grace, said by all)*

THE GRACE

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

+ HYMN 677 "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended" ST. CLEMENT

+THE BLESSING

ORISON "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" John Rutter

The Lord, bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his
countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

- Numbers 6:24

PROCESSION *(please remain seated while the choir processes out)*

VOLUNTARY "Paeon" Herbert Howells

The congregation is cordially invited to join the Clergy and Choir in Celebration Center, downstairs, for tea and refreshments. Please come!

Many thanks to the members of the Worship, Music and Arts Committee; ushers; choir members and others, for their assistance with the service and reception.

About the Service of Evensong

The service of Evensong, or Evening Prayer, combines elements of two services – Vespers and Compline – which were part of the seven-service daily cycle of prayer in the monasteries. It is said or sung daily in the cathedrals and collegiate churches of England, and in many cathedrals and churches in America, as well.

In many ways it is a very tiny fragment of something else: it is a fragment of the worship offered to God by Christian people, at every hour, in every part of the world. In attending a service of Evensong, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress – a conversation between God and God’s people that began long before we were born, and will go on long after we are dead. So do not be surprised or disturbed if there are some things in the conversation which you do not at once understand.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is an act of praise to almighty God that proclaims His wonderful presence in history and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer and obedience.

The form of the service is little altered from the form of the sixteenth century, but the content has a longer history. The Psalms were the hymnbook of the Jewish temple. Those used in this afternoon’s service are from the translation by Miles Coverdale, completed in the seventeenth century. Canticles (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis) are taken from the New Testament, and in the set prayers and responses, thanksgiving and petitions the people of God have always found themselves trying to make are expressed in words that were shaped and refined by long usage.

The service is in three parts. The first part prepares the worshipper for the story that is to follow. The second part is the narrative of God’s redeeming work, beginning with the psalms. The recitation of the psalter is at the heart of monastic worship, and this is reflected in the composition of Evensong. The story of God’s work continues in readings from the Old and New Testaments. Canticles of praise in response to this story (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis) are taken from the gospels. This part reaches its climax in the Affirmation of Faith. The third part is our prayerful response to the God who has been revealed in history, in Jesus Christ, and in the Church.

Each service is an act of worship addressed not to us, but to God, an act of thanksgiving and an act of intercession for all.

(adapted from publications of King’s College, Cambridge, and Coventry Cathedral)

The Chancel Choir of Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York, is under the direction of Peter DuBois. The 60-member choir sings weekly in worship from September through June of each year, and in addition, performs several major works with orchestra each season. This group serves as the cornerstone of a very active music and arts ministry which includes five singing choirs for children through adults; six handbell choirs; and various instrumental groups. The choir has produced two compact discs: *Shout Joy!*, a collection of anthems for all seasons, and *Calm on the Listening Ear of Night*, music for Advent and Christmas.



The choir has made two tours abroad, in 2001 and 2005. The first tour included a week's residency at Rochester Cathedral in Kent. It was for all a memorable experience singing services daily in this historic cathedral building, where services have been said or sung for 1000 years. Additional concerts and services on that trip included Coventry Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral.

In July and August 2005, the choir traveled again to the United Kingdom to serve as Choir-in-Residence for a week at London's St. Paul's Cathedral. Fifty singers and thirty accompanying family and congregation members made this exciting trip, which also included additional travel to Cambridge; performing a noon-time concert in the famous Lady Chapel at the cathedral in Ely; a half-day private choral workshop with renowned English composer Andrew Carter in York; and culminating with four days in and around Edinburgh, Scotland, including a concert in St. Giles' Cathedral, a landmark church in the history of Presbyterianism. Full information about the choir's activities – including the 2001 and 2005 tours – can be found on the church website at www.thirdpresbyterian.org/music.

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