

**Leading the service today:** Isabella Reid, Sarah Court, Kolitha Jayatunge, Ian Campbell, soloists; Tony Wu and Ted Yu, violins; Sylvia Nield, viola, Martin Griffiths, cello; Rachael Griffiths-Hughes, organ; Rev'd Wendy Tyrell

Next cantata vespers: 5pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April: Excerpts from *Stabat mater* – Pergolesi, featuring Elaine Wogan and Sarah Court

# **OPENING**

PRELUDE: Sonata for viola and continuo by Handel

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2

We stand to sing

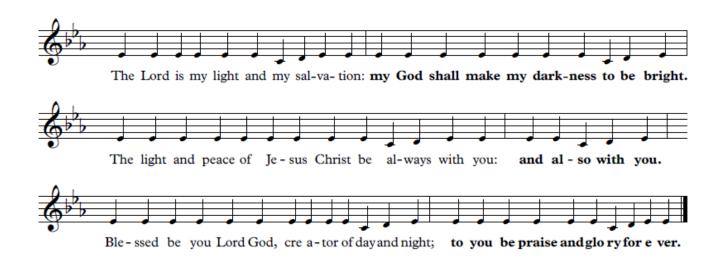
#### THE OPENING HYMN



Words: Latin, ninth century; trans. John Cosin, 162

# THE BLESSING OF LIGHT

Please sit or kneel



As darkness falls, you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. By the light of Christ your living word, dispel the darkness of our hearts that we may walk as children of light, and sing your praise throughout the world. **Amen** 

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.



Words: Greek; trans. John Keble, 1834

# **INVITATORY AND PSALTER**

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 Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. **Amen.** 

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy, to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin, your light breaks forth like the dawn and your healing springs up for deliverance. As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help, sustain us with your bountiful Spirit and open our lips to sing your praise: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

#### Please join in singing

# **PSALM 4**

**CHANT: William Knyvett (after Handel)** 



HEAR me when I call, O /God of. my /righteousness: \* thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and /hearken/ unto. my/ prayer.

- 2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye blas-/pheme mine/ honour, \* and have such pleasure in vanity, and /seek/ after/ falsehood?
- 3 Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the /man that. is /godly; \* when I call upon the /Lord/ he will/ hear me.
- 4 Stand in /awe, and/ sin not; \* commune with your own heart, and in your /chamber,/ and be/ still.
- 5 Offer the /sacrifice. of /righteousness, \* and put your /trust/ in the /Lord.
- 6 There be /many. that/say, \* Who will /show us/ any /good?
- 7 Lord, /lift thou /up\* the light of. thy/ countenance. up-/on /us.
- 8 Thou hast put /gladness in. my/ heart; \* yea, more than when their corn and /wine and /oil in-/crease.
- \*9 I will lay me down in peace, and /take my/ rest; \* for it is thou, Lord, only, that /makest. me/ dwell in/ safety.

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. A/-men

**WORD** 

We sit to hear

THE FIRST READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4: 1-7

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Here ends the first Lesson

Thanks be to God

# Magnificat tone II 2 solemn My soul doth mag-ni-fy the Lord, And my spi-rit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 2. For he hath regard-ed the low-liness of his handmaiden: for, be hold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath mag-ni-fi - ed me; and holy is his name. And his mer-cy is on them that fear him throughout all ge - ne-rations. He hath shew-ed strength with his arm; he hath scat - tered the proud in the i-ma-gi-nation of their hearts. 7. He hath put down the might-y from their seat, and hath exalt-ed the hum-ble and meek. 8. He hath fill-ed the hun-gry with good things; and the rich he hath sent emp - ty away. 9. He, remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Is - rael As he pro-mised to our forefathers, Ab-raham, and his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

#### THE SECOND READING: MATTHEW 15: 21-28

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

"Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Here ends the second Lesson **Thanks be to God** 

# THE CANTATA

- 1. **Chorus**: I thank you, O Lord, that you hast been angry with me, and your wrath is turned away, and you comfort me.
- 2. **Recitative**: The Lord is often angry, just as he was with the Canaanite. She cries out, she screams, he remains silent the more she complains, the disciples even beg him for mercy and compassion, but their endeavours are in vain. For Jesus says that he was not sent to her to comfort her. In such a state of misery, she continues to bend down at his feet and beg, and hears this harsh word from Jesus' mouth: his bread of mercy is not for dogs. She wishes, she only desires to enjoy crumbs from the table of God. And she sees that her wish is fulfilled, for Jesus says: 'O woman, your faith is great, yes, be it done to you as you wish.'
- 3. **Duet**: So I will not leave Jesus, he will bless me first. I don't want to believe him, I only want to hold him with prayer, so I must succeed. I will conquer even the unconquerable.
- 4. **Chorale**: Rejoice greatly, O my soul, and forget all distress and anguish, because now Christ, your Lord, is calling you out of this vale of tears! You shall see his joy and glory for ever, rejoice with the angels, triumph for ever.
- 5. **Duet**: Sweet word from the mouth of Jesus: be it done unto thee as thou wilt. You can heal real comfort and heal the heart's deep wound under the bandage, so that all pain is quenched.
- 6. **Recitative:** As when, after a gloomy night, the morning light shines in new splendour, as when, after hard thunderbolts, a gentle rain of grace refreshes the land and makes it fertile, so, when God's wrath turns and his grace sends golden light and pleasant rays, the dull heart is quickened, and the soul is set free. It cannot contain itself in its sweet impulses and must therefore allow itself to be thankful to honour the gracious God.
- 7. Repeat first chorus

# Response

Eternal spirit flow through our being and open our lips; **That our mouths may proclaim your praise.** 

In response to tonight's cantata let us now stand and affirm our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection

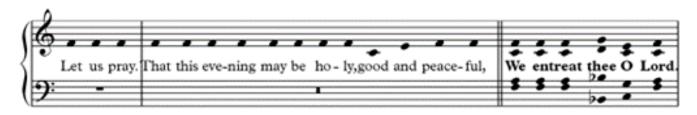
# **PRAYERS**

We sit or kneel

The Lord be with you. **And also with you** 

#### THE LITANY FOR PEACE

of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



That thy holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill **We entreat...** 

That we may be pardoned and forgiven our sins and offences, We entreat...

That there may be peace to thy Church and to the whole world, **We entreat...** 

That we may depart this life in thy faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgement seat of Christ, **We entreat...** 

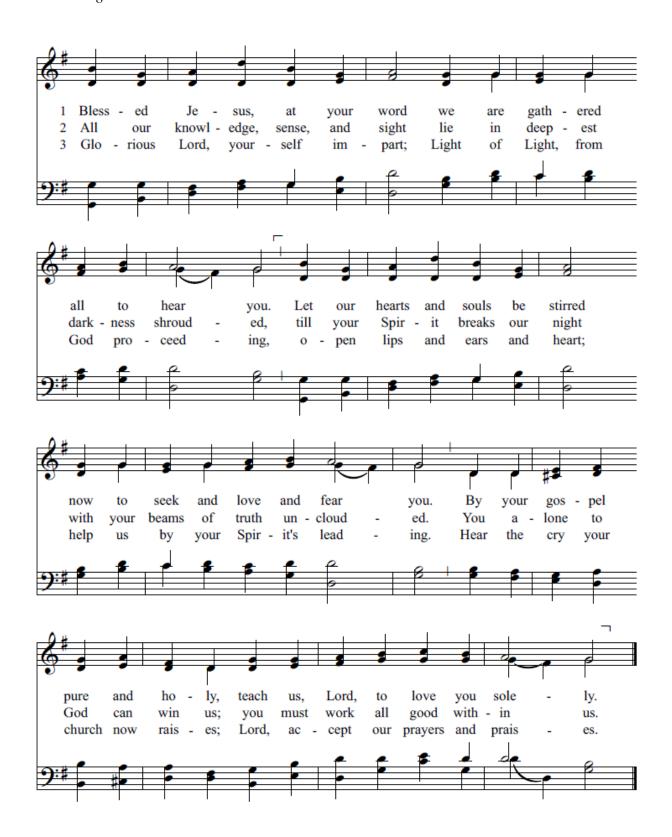
That we may be bound together by the Holy Spirit in the communion of all thy saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ, **We entreat...** 

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. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth thine unending day upon us who watch for thee, that our lips may praise thee, our lives may bless thee, and our worship on the morrow may give thee glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** 

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. **Amen.** 

#### THE BLESSING



**POSTLUDE:** Prelude on *Liebster Jesu* – Andreas Armsdorff (1670-1699)

The prayers and liturgy for tonight's service come from the Book of Common Prayer, as available at www.bcponline

# **Cathedral Ministry Team and Contacts**

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