



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

5:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 13, 2025
Choral Evensong for Remembrance

VOLUNTARY

Pari Intervallo

Arvo Pärt

“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.”

-Romans 14:8

THE PEOPLE STAND AS THE PROCESSION ENTERS THE NAVE.

INTROIT

William H. Harris

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heav’n,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitation of thy glory and dominion,
world without end. Amen.

-John Donne

Bring Us, O Lord God is one of two choral anthems by William H. Harris (1883-1973) set for double choir and popularly sung on the occasion of All Saints’. Harris was organist at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle, and this very anthem was sung at the late Queen Elizabeth II’s committal service held there. The text was penned by John Donne (1572-1631), who served as Dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral, London.

HYMN NO. 286

Zeuch mich, zeuch mich

OPENING SENTENCES

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. *-Psalm 16:7-8*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

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. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus 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.

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

THE PRECES

Bernard Rose

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant: 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.

Officiant: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's Name be praised.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

PSALM 121

Anglican Chant: Henry Walford Davies

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

- 1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills;
from whence cometh my help?
- 2 My help cometh even from the Lord,
who hath made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself is thy keeper;
the Lord is thy defense upon thy right hand;
- 6 So that the sun shall not burn thee by day,
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil;
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
- 8 The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in,
from this time forth for ever more.

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.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS.

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (1:11-23)

Here endeth the Reading.

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae,
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius.
Et misericordia eius a progenie
in progenies timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
Deposuit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles.
Esurientes implevit bonis,
et divites dimisit inanes.
Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus misericordiae suae,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

*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 showed 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.
-Luke 1:46-55*

Though the settings of tonight's Evening Canticles were never meant to be paired, they compliment each other quite well in musical style and atmosphere. Both settings are also in Latin, which is a deviation from the English settings normally sung for Evensong. Estonian composer Arvo Pärt (b. 1935) is well known in today's musical world, primarily for his musical innovation of tintinnabulation. The technique may either involve the application of various inversions of the same chord, or in other instances, certain voices sing the notes of a triad while other voices move in a stepwise fashion. The device is meant to evoke the pealing of bells, and is heard throughout Pärt's setting of the *Magnificat*. Gregorian chant as well as the music of the Russian Orthodox Church, of which Pärt is a member, also heavily influence his compositional style, and these elements are evident in the music.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE.

Jesus lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²²Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. ²⁴But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets. ²⁷But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them." (6:20-31)

Here endeth the Reading.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Gustav Holst

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace.
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutarem tuum,
quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum.
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat [in principio],
nunc et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
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

Gustav Holst (1874-1934) is most known for his orchestral suite *The Planets*. The unaccompanied *Nunc dimittis* was composed in 1915 and remained in manuscript form until 1979 when a published edition appeared, revised by the composer's daughter, Imogen Holst. Gustav Holst was passionate about the music of Byrd and Palestrina, which is shown here in both its modal writing, and the way the upper and lower voices of the choir answer each other antiphonally. It is an exuberant setting of the Song of Simeon.

THE PEOPLE STAND.

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

Bernard Rose

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

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.

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant: O Lord, save the State.

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

Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant: O Lord, save thy people.

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

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

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

A 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 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 Savior. *Amen.*

A COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST 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 Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE WELCOME

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion,
 and unto thee shall the vow be perform'd in Jerusalem.
 Thou that hearest the prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.
 Blessed is the man whom thou choosest and receivest unto thee.
 He shall dwell in thy courts
 and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house,
 e'en of thy holy temple,;

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stay'd on thee.
 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace because he trusteth in thee.
 Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

Let the people praise thee, O God,
 yea, let all the people praise thee.
 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase:
 and God shall give us his blessing.

-Psalm 65:1-2, 4; Isaiah 26:3, 4; Psalm 67:3, 6

Malcolm Boyle (1902-1976) received his early musical training at Eton College as a chorister and St. George's, Windsor Castle as an organ student. He later returned to St. George's as assistant organist to Sir Henry Walford Davies. Boyle's lasting musical accomplishment is his anthem, *Thou, O God, Art Praised in Sion*, noted for its grand organ introduction and extensive choral writing, reminiscent of the large-scale choral works composed by C. Hubert H. Parry. Our Cathedral Choir will sing in residence at St. George's, Windsor in July 2026.

THE PEOPLE KNEEL.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

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.**

THE PEOPLE STAND.

HYMN NO. 624

Ewing

VOLUNTARY

Apparition de l'Eglise éternelle

Olivier Messiaen

THE PEOPLE REMAIN STANDING UNTIL THE PROCESSION LEAVES THE NAVE, AND ARE INVITED TO SIT FOR
THE REMAINDER OF THE VOLUNTARY.

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*Come to me,
all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

The Church of the Advent was founded with the City of Birmingham in 1872.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT (EPISCOPAL)
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