



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
IN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM



5:30 P.M.
OCTOBER 1, 2026
Choral Evensong for Michaelmas

VOLUNTARY

Charles Villiers Stanford

Prelude on *Song 34 (The Angels' Song)*, Op. 105, No. 1

THE PEOPLE STAND AS THE PROCESSION ENTERS THE NAVE.

INTROIT

Richard Dering

Factum est silentium in caelo
dum committeret bellum draco
cum Michaelae Archangelo.
Audita est vox milia milium, dicentium:
Salus, honor et virtus omnipotenti Deo. Alleluia.

*There was silence in heaven
as the dragon joined battle
with the Archangel Michael.
A voice was heard, thousand upon thousand-fold, saying:
Salvation, honor and virtue to almighty God. Alleluia.
-Antiphon at Lauds for Michaelmas (Revelation 12:7, 10)*

Richard Dering (c.1580-1630) was an expatriate English musician who lived and worked in the Low Countries because of his Roman Catholic faith. Dering's style identifies with the music of the Italian Baroque, which he learned through his journeys to Venice and Rome. *Factum est silentium* was published in 1618. Written in a particularly Venetian style along the likes of Giovanni Gabrieli, the motet dramatically recounts the battle of Michael and the dragon from Revelation 12.

HYMN NO. 29

Bromley

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.

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

Michael Walsh

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Precentor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Precentor: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Precentor: 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.

Precentor: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's Name be praised.

THE PEOPLE SIT.

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

- 1 Praise the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.
- 2 Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits:
- 3 Who forgiveth all thy sin,
and healeth all thine infirmities;
- 4 Who saveth thy life from destruction,
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things,
making thee young and lusty as an eagle.
- 6 The Lord executeth righteousness and judgement
for all them that are oppressed with wrong.
- 7 He shewed his ways unto Moses,
his works unto the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
long-suffering, and of great goodness.
- 9 He will not always be chiding;
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
- 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins;
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
- 11 For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth;
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
- 12 Look how wide also the east is from the west;
so far hath he set our sins from us.
- 13 Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children;
even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.
- 14 For he knoweth whereof we are made;
he remembereth that we are but dust.
- 15 The days of man are but as grass;
for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.
- 16 For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone;
and the place thereof shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him;
and his righteousness upon children's children;

- 18 Even upon such as keep his covenant,
and think upon his commandments to do them.
- 19 The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven,
and his kingdom ruleth over all.
- 20 O praise the Lord, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength;
ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his words.
- 21 O praise the Lord, all ye his hosts;
ye servants of his that do his pleasure.
- 22 O speak good of the Lord, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion:
praise thou the Lord, O my soul.

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 REVELATION TO JOHN.

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹²Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” (12:7-12)

Here endeth the Reading.

MAGNIFICAT IN B-FLAT

Charles Villiers Stanford

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

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.

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*

The Morning, Communion, and Evening Services in B-flat by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) were composed in 1879, and were his very first significant settings of these services. The *Magnificat* is a spirited setting of Mary's hymn and contains long lyrical lines for both the trebles and lower voices. The *Nunc dimittis* is a sonorous setting for men's voices, which builds to the words "and to be the glory of thy people Israel." The full choir returns to sing the dignified Gloria.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (1:47-51)

Here endeth the Reading.

NUNC DIMITTIS IN B-FLAT

Charles Villiers Stanford

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

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 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

Michael Walsh

SUNG BY THE CHOIR.

Precentor: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Precentor: 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.

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 COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *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

ANTHEM

Charles Villiers Stanford

For lo, I raise up that bitter and hasty nation, which march thro' the breadth of the earth,
to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs.

They are terrible and dreadful, their judgement and their dignity proceed from themselves.

Their horses also are swifter than leopards, and are more fierce than the ev'ning wolves,
and their horsemen spread themselves yea, their horsemen come from far.

They fly as an eagle that hasteth to devour, they come all of them for violence;
their faces are set as the east wind, and they gather captives as the sand.

Yea, he scoffeth at kings and princes are a derision unto him.

For he heapeth up dust and taketh it.

Then shall he sweep by as a wind that shall pass over and be guilty,
even he whose might is his God.

Art not thou from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One?

We shall not die.

O Lord, thou hast ordained him for judgement and thou, O rock,
hast established him for correction.

I will stand upon my watch and set me upon the tower and look forth to see what he will say to
me and what I shall answer concerning my complaint.

And the Lord answered me and said:

The vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end and shall not lie;
tho' it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come.

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

-adapted from Habbakuk 1:6-12; 2:1-3, 14, 20

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) composed *For Lo, I Raise Up* in 1914 as a response to World War I, setting the prophetic passage of Habbakuk to express the horror of war and the need for deliverance. The text and the drama of the music reassure us that in even the darkest hours, the Lord will deliver us all.

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. 282

Caelites plaudant

VOLUNTARY

Jean Langlais

Te Deum, from *Trois paraphrases gregoriennes*, Op. 5, No. 3

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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