



**St Mary Magdalene**

# **CHORAL EVENSONG**

*11 January 2026 – Baptism of Christ*

*Minister – The Rev'd Hannah Swithinbank*

*Please stand as the choir and minister enter*

**Introit**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

### **Office Hymn**

**1 A safe stronghold our God is still,  
a trusty shield and weapon;  
he'll keep us clear from all the ill  
that hath us now o'ertaken.  
The ancient prince of hell  
hath risen with purpose fell;  
strong mail of craft and power  
he weareth in this hour;  
on earth is not his fellow.**

**2 With force of arms we nothing can,  
full soon were we down-ridden;  
but for us fights the proper Man  
whom God himself hath bidden.  
Ask ye who is this same?  
Christ Jesus is his name,  
the Lord Sabaoth's Son;  
he, and no other one,  
shall conquer in the battle.**

**3\* And were this world all devils  
o'er,  
and watching to devour us,  
we lay it not to heart so sore;  
they cannot overpower us.  
And let the prince of ill  
look grim as e'er he will,  
he harms us not a whit;  
for why? his doom is writ;  
a word shall quickly slay him.**

**4 God's word, for all their craft  
and force,  
one moment will not linger,  
but, spite of hell, shall have its  
course;  
'tis written by his finger.  
And though they take our life,  
goods, honour, children, wife,  
yet is their profit small;  
these things shall vanish all:  
the city of God remaineth.**

Martin Luther 1483-1546, Ein fest Burg, CP 366

## Prayers of Penitence

*Please sit or kneel*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with a humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

**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; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu 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.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

## Responses

*Reading*

○ Lord, open thou our lips **and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

○ God, make speed to save us. **○ Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Please 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.**

Praise ye the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

*Please be seated*

## Psalmody

*Psalm 46*

GOD is our hope and strength : a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved : and though the hills be  
carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell : and though the mountains shake at the  
tempest of the same.

4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God : the holy place of the  
tabernacle of the most Highest.

5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed : God shall help her,  
and that right early.

6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved : but God hath shewed  
his voice, and the earth shall melt away.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.

8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord : what destruction he hath  
brought upon the earth.

9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world : he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the  
spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.

10 Be still then, and know that I am God : I will be exalted among the heathen, and I  
will be exalted in the earth.

11 The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Please 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.

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Joshua 3.1–8, 14–end*

And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you. And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people. And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.

And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan. And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

*Please stand*

## **Magnificat**

*Batten 'Fourth' evening service*

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 he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. *Luke 1.46-55*  
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.

*Please be seated*

## **Second Reading**

*Hebrews 1.1-12*

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

*Please stand*

## **Nunc Dimittis**

*Batten 'Fourth' evening service*

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.

### **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.**

### **Reponses**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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.**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us. **And grant us thy salvation.**

○ Lord, save the King. **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

○ Lord, save thy people. **And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord. **Because there is none other that  
fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

## The Collect of the Day

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 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 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. **Amen.**

## The Collect 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. **Amen.**

## Anthem

## Warlock Bethlehem Down

*When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
"Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph  
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.*

*Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.*

*When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,  
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary  
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.*

*Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.*

Text: Bruce Blunt (1899-1957)

Music: Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

## Sermon

### 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 evermore. Amen.**

*Please stand*

### Hymn

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.**

**2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
self denying, death defying,  
thou to Calvary didst go.**

**3 Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy;  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.**

James Edmeston 1791-1867 NEH 393/CP 496

### Benediction

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, be with you this night and always. **Amen.**

### Voluntary

Fugue sur le nom d'Alain op. 7.ii

*M. Duruflé (1902-1986)*