

**Parish of Central Windsor**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**5.30pm**



## **Choral Evensong**

**according to  
The Book of Common Prayer**

**A warm welcome to  
All Saints' Church  
for our service this evening**

**ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE: Christ ist erstanden (*JS Bach*)**

Please stand for:  
**THE OPENING HYMN**

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God hath brought his Israel  
into joy from sadness:  
loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ hath burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from his light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendour,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection.**

**Alleluia now we cry  
to our King Immortal,  
who triumphant burst the bars  
of the tomb's dark portal;  
alleluia, with the Son  
God the Father praising;  
alleluia yet again  
to the Spirit raising.**

*St John of Damascus d. c. 754  
Tr J. M. Neale (1818-1866)*

*The Opening Sentence and Introduction are said:*

Dearly beloved....

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation,*

**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.**

*The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest*

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.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

**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.**

*The Preces and Responses are sung*

V. O Lord, open thou our lips

R. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

V. O God, make speed to save us.

R. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

*The appointed Psalm is sung*

**Psalm 118**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength, and my song : and is become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> The voice of joy and health is in the dwellings of the righteous : the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence : the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but live : and declare the works of the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord hath chastened and corrected me : but he hath not given me over unto death.

<sup>19</sup> Open me the gates of righteousness : that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord : the righteous shall enter into it.

<sup>21</sup> I will thank thee, for thou hast heard me : and art become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The same stone which the builders refused : is become the head-stone in the corner.

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing : and it is marvellous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day which the Lord hath made : we will rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Help me now, O Lord : O Lord, send us now prosperity.

<sup>26</sup> Blessed be he that cometh in the Name of the Lord : we have wished you good luck, ye that are of the house of the Lord.

<sup>27</sup> God is the Lord who hath shewed us light : bind the sacrifice with cords, yea, even unto the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup> Thou art my God, and I will thank thee : thou art my God, and I will praise thee.

<sup>29</sup> O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth 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.**

*A Lesson of the Old Testament is read*

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of Ezekiel

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

37 <sup>1</sup>The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.<sup>2</sup>He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Here endeth the Lesson: **Thanks be to God**

## **The Magnificat (Stanford in C) is sung**

**My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath  
rejoiced in God my Saviour.**

**For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.**

**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.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,**

*A Lesson of the New Testament is read*

The Second Lesson is taken from the First Letter of Peter

### **1 Peter 1:3-9**

**1** <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Here endeth the Lesson: **Thanks be to God**

**The Nunc Dimittis** (Stanford in C) *is 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.

*The Apostles' Creed is said*

**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 Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

V. Lord be with you.

**R. And with thy spirit.**

V. Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**R. Christ, have mercy upon us.**

V. 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.**

V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**R. And grant us thy salvation.**

V. O Lord, save the King.

**R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

V. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

**R. And make thy chosen people joyful.**

V. O Lord, save thy people.

**R. And bless thine inheritance.**

V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

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



## The Collect for the First Sunday after Easter

Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may alway serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
Amen

## *The Second Collect at Evening Prayer*

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 Third 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:* Blessed be the Lord and Father (SS Wesley)

Prayers of Intercession are said, 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.**

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,  
thinking that never he would awake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
thy touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

*J. M. C. Crum (1872-1958)*

**SERMON**

## *Hymn after sermon*

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the Paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,  
and crushed the serpent's head;  
and brought with him, from death's domains,  
the long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey  
alone our Leader bore;  
his ransomed hosts pursue their way  
where he hath gone before

Triumphant in his glory now  
his sceptre ruleth all,  
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,  
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
his mercy we implore,  
into his palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
while endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.

*St Fulbert of Chartres d.1028  
Tr Robert Campbell (1814-1868)*

## **FINAL BLESSING**

**Voluntary:** Allegro maestoso e vivace and Fuga from Sonata No. 2  
(Mendelssohn)

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt “at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that you will return in the future.  
We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask!  
You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

**Web Site:**  
[www.windsorchurches.org.uk](http://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)

*Text from The Book of Common Prayer, the rights in which are vested in the Crown, is reproduced by permission of the Crown's Patentee, Cambridge University Press.*