

Sung Eucharist in Celebration of The Incarnation

The Revd Pippa White Presides
at The Eucharist for the first time

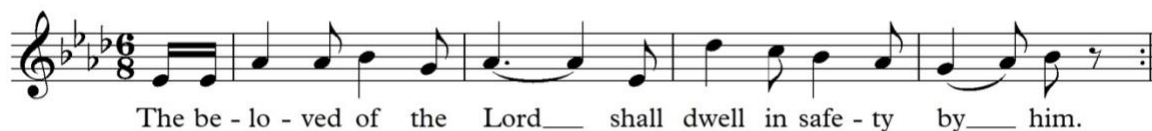


**The Parishes of
St Paul's Clifton and Cotham**

Sunday 11th October 2020

The Gathering

Introit Chant: The beloved of the Lord – Esther Bersweden



Hymn: Be thou my vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Be thou my inheritance now and always,
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Greeting

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Words of introduction and invitation

Penitence

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

Pause for silent reflection

You share your love with every people;
we draw limits of race and creed.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

You immerse yourself in love of life;
we hold back in fear and shame.

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

You change the water into wine;
we refuse to let our hearts be moved.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

May the God of love and mercy bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and embrace you in his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Canticle of Praise: Laudate omnes gentes

Laudate omnes gentes

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked 'p' (piano) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -'. The second system continues the melody and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'da - te omnes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -'. Below the second system, there is a line of text: 'Sing prai-ses, all you peo-ple, sing prai-ses to the Lord. / Sjung lov-sång, alla'.

p Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -

da - te omnes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -

♪ Sing prai-ses, all you peo-ple, sing prai-ses to the Lord. / Sjung lov-sång, alla

The Collect

God of impossible love,
announcing to us
a new way of being
give us the faith of Mary
to work with the Spirit of life;
give us her perplexity
an opening to the event;
give us her deep thought
which delves beyond the norm;
through Jesus Christ, long-awaited, unforeseen.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Blessed are they who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion,
- 5 Who going through the barren valley find there a spring,
and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.
- 6 They will go from strength to strength
and appear before God in Zion.
- 7 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
listen, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God,
and look upon the face of your anointed.

9 For one day in your courts
is better than a thousand.

10 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

11 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;
no good thing shall the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord God of hosts,
blessed are those who put their trust in you.



Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 26-38, 46-55

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

And Mary sang, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon: David Stephenson

Poem: Made Flesh, Luci Shaw

After
the bright beam of hot annunciation
fused heaven with dark earth
his searing sharply focused light
went out for a while
eclipsed in amniotic gloom:
his cool immensity of splendor
his universal grace
small-folded in a warm dim
female space—
the Word stern-sentenced
to be nine months dumb—
infinity walled in a womb
until the next enormity—
the Mighty, after submission
to a woman's pains
helpless on a barn-bare floor
first-tasting bitter death

Now
I in him surrender
to the crush and cry of birth.
Because eternity
was closeted in time
he is my open door
to forever.
From his imprisonment my freedoms
grow,
find wings.
Part of his body, I transcend this flesh.
From his sweet silence my mouth sings.
Out of his dark I glow.
My life, as his,
slips through death's mesh,
time's bars,
joins hands with heaven,
speaks with stars.



Profession of faith

Let us proclaim our faith in the God who dwells with us

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

cf Ephesians 3

The Intercessions: led by Pauline Shaw



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Christ has broken down the dividing wall
that made us strangers to one another;
he has made us one humanity
that God might be all in all;
he is our life, our hope, our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace

Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

Preparation of the table

Here is food that satisfies, the taste of communion.
Here is wine pouring free, the washing away of fear.
Here is life abundant, a table of peace for all.
May this peace be in us and among us,
a sign of hope for a world renewed.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
God's Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to give thanks and praise.
Lifegiving God, your word speaks in the void,
calling into being things that are not,
inviting us to share your work of creation.
We thank you for the ages long
of gathering stars and cooling earth,
of life evolving and waking eyes of wonder.

We thank you for the creatures
with whom we share the world
for their lives so different from our own
and the richness they reveal.
We thank you for the Son of Man,
formed from Mary's flesh
and nurtured by her faith;
he walked the growing earth
and proclaimed a fearless kingdom of bird and lily,
child and stranger, the beggar and the blind.

On the cross, he joined the labour of all creation's yearning;
in his rising, he hallowed all flesh to bear the glory of God;
he gives the brooding Spirit
to bring to birth a living hope.

Therefore, with all that has life through him with animals and angels
and all who hope for a new creation,
we share the song of love which sounds from all eternity:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We ask that your Holy Spirit
will fall upon us and upon these gifts
that these fragile, earthly things
may be to us the body and blood
of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ;
who, on the night that he was betrayed,
gathered with his faltering friends
for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
'This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

In the same way after supper,
he took the cup, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

As on that night, so here and now
he offers himself in touch and taste
beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we come to him in whom all is created
in heaven and on earth,
whose cross and resurrection make all things new.
We offer this to you,
asking you to smile upon the gift we bring,
for you alone are the Giver and Christ's the gift
through which we live once and for all.

Through him who was emptied to bear your fullness
we make our prayer with all created life
to the glory of the God
who fills all in all
now and for ever.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Father,
in the words of the Son

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Here is the table of the Lord,
**we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.**

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, there is room for all.

Communion Anthem: Mother of God – John Tavener



Post Communion Prayer

We thank you
that our hunger
finds its rest in him
who offers body and blood
for the life of the waiting world:
earth our wandering spirit
and show yourself to us
in the face of every other.
Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

The Blessing

May we who have been touched by the Word made flesh
be his body for the world,
his hands to bring blessing,
his senses to glory,
in the promise of creation restored;
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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